MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 APRIL 1982

Israel

Begin Interview, Speech -- If the Palestinian autonomy talks are not held in Jerusalem, Israel will refuse to meet anywhere else, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in an interview reported by Jerusalem radio. Begin also revealed that the government will shortly submit to the Knesset a motion ruling that settlements will never again be uprooted. He said he is seeking opposition support for this proposal.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Israeli leader said that time and again he is reminded of his statement last year that either Philip Habib secures the removal of Syria's surface-to-air missiles from Lebanon or Israel will remove them itself. Asserting that Israel is still capable of destroying the missiles within a few hours, Begin said that had the SAM's prevented Israeli aircraft from taking photographs, Israel would have destroyed them. However, the missiles are not bothering the Israelis, but are merely causing difficulties, which the air force has surmounted. Noting that Israeli planes overfly Lebanon every day to take photographs, Begin said this does not constitute a violation of the cease-fire.

If the terrorists attack us again, Begin warned, Israel will deal them a much more serious blow than the recent air raid. If they shell Israeli settlements and civilians, Israel will consider entering Lebanon to destroy the PLO's infrastructure. Begin revealed that the United States had exercised all the means at its disposal to warn the Palestinians not to attack Israel in the wake of the air force's "marvelous operation" against terrorist bases on 21 April.

In an Independence Day speech to the nation broadcast by the radio, Begin stressed that Israel evacuated the Sinai of its own free will, not as a defeated nation, but as a victorious one. Commending the IDF for its bloodless evacuation of Yamit, Begin forgave those opponents of the withdrawal who "made mistakes, erred, even misled, even incited."

Asserting that there are grounds to hope that Egypt has left the cycle of war against Israel for a long, long time, Begin said the U.S. military presence in the Sinai guarantees freedom of shipping in the Straits of Tiran. He noted that Egypt and the United States have renewed their commitment to conduct Palestinian autonomy negotiations, but emphasized that under no circumstances will Israel grant the Palestinians a state or self-determination, which would jeopardize Israel's security.

Alignment on Begin Proposal; New Settlements -- The Alignment's reaction team has rejected Begin's proposal that the Knesset pass a motion against the removal f settlements, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency Settlement Department submitted to the government a plan for 20 new settlements in Samaria, Judaea and south of Jerusalem, the radio noted.

West Bank, Gaza Disturbances -- An IDF soldier and two Arab youths were injured during a riot in the Nabulus Casbah, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF dispersed rioting youths in the Gaza District, according to ITIM.

Eytan Interview -- Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said in a Jerusalem television interview that the recent air force raid on terrorist targets was striking and impressive, completely destroying three bases and causing many casualties. Two Syrian MiG-23's were downed by F-16's for the first time in history. Confirming that the IDF will emphasize qualitative improvements rather than quantitative growth in the future, Eytan said the air force and the armored corps will nevertheless experience a modest growth in size.

Jordan

King Husayn Speech -- One of the most cherished aspirations of the Arabs is to see the Arab nation, including Egypt and all noble Arab countries, resume its unified march and continue its mission in support of justice until all Arab territory, including Jerusalem, is returned to the Arabs, King Husayn said in a speech, broadcast live by Amman radio, inaugurating the third National Consultative Council. Israel is in a race with time and events to create a status quo and to surprise Arabs, Muslims and the whole world by annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Husayn remarked earlier in the speech. The village leagues are just a new chapter in this tragedy which Israel is exploiting to give "false legality" to its aggression and occupation, to break the international isolation which threatens it, to sidestep the UN resolutions and to obstruct any international effort based on these resolutions. Commenting on the Iran-Iraq war and Jordan's clear stand in support of Iraq, Husayn said Jordan is pained to see some Arabs stand by Iran and provide it with weapons and money.

Weapons Request -- U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger stated that Jordan will submit a request asking the United States to supply Jordan with weapons, Amman radio reported.

PLO

There will be a "gradual and cautious" change in the direction of Egypt returning to the Arab fold and in a normalization between Cairo and the PLO, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat predicted in an interview published on 23 April by the FRG paper DIE ZEIT. Everything will depend on the Egyptians themselves, including "the opposition forces," he added.

Egypt

Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha announced the release of 353 persons who had been detained under the emergency law, MENA reported.

Lebanon

In a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Muslim leaders in Beirut called for a general strike on 28 April to protest the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf. Voice of Lebanon radio opined that 'Assaf's opposition to the establishment of local councils in west Beirut was the primary reason for his assassination.

Iraq

Syria's decision to stop the flow of Iraqi oil through its territory is equivalent to sending 10 Syrian military divisions to fight on the side of the Iranians, President Saddam Husayn asserted at a meeting with Kuwaiti newspaper editors, KUNA reported. Husayn criticized Arab silence on the Syrian decision, but stressed that it would not affect Iraq. The president expressed doubt that Washington and Moscow wish to end the Iran-Iraq war. The Soviet Union and the United States say they wish to end the war, but words are one thing and real intentions are something else, he added.

Iran

Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari's son-in-law, Ahmad Abbasi, revealed new facts linking Saudi Arabia with the recent coup plot, Tehran radio reported citing a Tehran television interview. According to Abbasi, Mehdi Mahdavi, one of the participants in the plot, said he had met with King Khalid's brother 'Abdallah who told him Saudi Arabia is prepared to cooperate with the new regime. Abbasi said Mahdavi also mentioned that the Saudi regime would allow Shari'atmadari to go to Saudi Arabia provided he would engage in intensive activities against Iran, the radio said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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TEXT OF LIBYAN-PDRY-ETHIOPIAN TREATY

PM261247 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Apr 82 pp 28, 29

["Text" of the "secret treaty" concluded "last summer" among Libya, the PDRY and Ethiopia]

[Excerpt] The following is the full text of the cooperation treaty signed by Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya which has hitherto remained secret:

In view of the coordinated conspiraces by international imperialist forces, Zionism and racism, and the forces of reaction in order to contain, throttle and topple the revolution in the three countries, and in view of the continued attempts by these forces to hinder the flow of their natural resources by putting the African Continent and Arab countries under their influence and domination; in their belief that the unity and cooperation of these three countries in the political, economic and other fields will enhance the strength of the three countries against imperialism, reactionism and Zionism; in view of the fact that the general struggle which they are waging in these fields will bring benefits not only for their own peoples but also for the peace of the area, the world's progressive forces and the world's independence movements; in affirmation of their strong desire to protect their territorial integrity against aggression; in order to protect their freedom and national and regional integrity as well as their wealth against counter-revolutions, to shape their revolutionary experiments more closely, to strengthen the struggle experiment their people are waging and strengthen their efforts aimed at resisting all kinds of persecution; and in view of the need to establish cooperation, friendship and coordination among the revolutions of the three countries in various fields while asserting that they will abide by the UN Charter and principles, the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the covenants of the continental organizations of which their countries are members, socialist Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya have decided the following:

Article 1. The three parties signatory to the treaty shall cooperate in the political, economic and other fields so they will be able to coordinate among themselves in confronting imperialism, Zionism, reactionism and racial discrimination.

Article 2. The three parties signatory to the treaty shall cooperate in the political field in order to ensure the unity of struggle among the three revolutionary countries.

Article 3. The three parties signatory to the treaty shall cooperate to coordinate among themselves in order to thwart the conspiracies being hatched by imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces aimed at throttling the progressive forces and countries by strengthening their military forces and also by building and expanding military bases in the countries on the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Article 4. The three parties signatory to the treaty shall resist the conspiracies and alliances of the Camp David accords.

Article 5. The three parties signatory to the treaty have reiterated their solidarity with the Arab and African liberation movements, particularly the Palestinian revolution and the revolutions in Namibia and South Africa, in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, reactionism, and racial discrimination.

Article 6. The three parties signatory to the treaty will exhange ideas so they will be able to coordinate their stands on international and regional issues.

Article 7. The three parties signatory to the treaty will exert maximum effort in order to strengthen and deepen their ties with the progressive forces and countries in the area as well as with socialist countries.

Article 8. A political committee will be set up comprising the foreign minister of socialist Ethiopia, the secretary of the External Relations Office of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the PDRY foreign minister.

Article 9. The committee's tasks will be as follows:

1. To observe the implementation of the political lines laid down herein.
2. To submit ideas to the Supreme Council on how political cooperation can best be developed.
3. To prepare for the meetings of the Supreme Council.
4. Finally, to carry out the contractual duties assigned to the Political Committee.

Article 10. The three parties signatory to the treaty will cooperate among themselves in the economic field in order to develop their national economies.

Article 11. The three parties signatory to the treaty will exchange financial and material aid in order to be able to implement their plans for national development and in order to find solutions to their economic problems. They will also strengthen their trade relations.

Article 12. The three parties signatory to the treaty will take into consideration the ability of each country individually and on this basis will cooperate among themselves in order to lay down development plans that will serve economic and social development.

Article 13. The three parties signatory to the treaty will do all they can in order to coordinate their stands regarding international economic issues and will strengthen their relations with progressive countries in the area as well as with socialist states.

Article 14. An economic committee will be formed comprising the economy minister of socialist Ethiopia, the secretary of public economy in Libya, and the planning minister in the PDRY.

Article 15. Duties of the Economic Committee:

1. To lay down plans and coordinate economic relations among the three parties signatory to the treaty.
2. To submit ideas and views on ways to develop economic cooperation.
3. Finally, to carry out the additional duties assigned to the committee by the Supreme Council.

Article 16. Each of the countries signatory to the treaty will support one another in case of an attack on any of them, and the support will be both collective and individual, particularly since aggression against any of the three countries will be considered aggression against all countries signatory to the treaty.

Article 17. The three parties signatory to the treaty will, in accordance with agreements signed among them, exert their maximum effort in order to strengthen their defense and security capabilities so they can protect their freedom and territorial integrity.

Article 18. The Supreme Council will comprise: a) the Ethiopian president, b) the Libyan president, c) the PDRY president, d) the chairmen of the political, economic and other committees. The Supreme Council will carry out the following tasks:

1. It will analyze the work of the Political, Economic and other Committees and will take steps to ensure the implementation of such work.
2. It will set up other ministerial committees or secretariats as the need may arise.

Article 19. The Supreme Council will meet once a year in the capitals of the countries signatory to the treaty in succession. If any party signatory to the treaty requests an emergency meeting, such a meeting will be held.

Article 20. The political, economic and other committees will meet once very 6 months in the capitals of the countries signatory to the treaty in succession. If any party signatory to the treaty requests an emergency meeting, then such a meeting will be held.

Article 21. The Political Committee will submit a report on its work to the Supreme Council. The other committees will also submit reports on their work to the Supreme Council through the Political Committee.

Article 22. The three parties signatory to the treaty have affirmed the articles of this treaty are not contrary to the international treaties and commitments the three countries entered previously. They have also pledged not to enter into any international treaties contrary to the provisions of this treaty.

Article 23. This treaty must be ratified by the signatory countries, and the ratified instruments will be deposited with the PDRY Government.

Article 24. This treaty will come into effect when the last ratified instrument has been deposited with the PDRY Government. The PDRY Government will inform the other signatory countries of the receipt of each ratified instrument.

Article 25. Any other states pursuing the objectives of this treaty, the provisions of the UN Charter and the general line of the Nonaligned Movement can join the membership of this treaty after obtaining the full approval of three signatory parties.

Article 26. The three parties signatory to the treaty will sign political, economic and other agreements and protocols that will facilitate the implementation of the treaty and will be part of the treaty that has actually been signed.

Article 27. If any party signatory to the treaty wishes to withdraw from the treaty it can do so, but it must notify the PDRY Government 2 years before withdrawal. Consequently the PDRY Government will inform the other parties. Three copies of this treaty will be printed in Amharic, Arabic and English. All languages in which this treaty will be written are equally acceptable.

PLO MAGAZINE ANALYZES POSTWITHDRAWAL STAGE

JN271712 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] In its editorial titled "Egypt and the Arabs After April 25th," the official PLO magazine FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH says: The United States has succeeded after 5 years of lengthy negotiations in implementing the Camp David accords. During this time Egypt has been hostage to America's decision moving in the direction of U.S. strategic needs. The document signed by As-Sadat calls to bind Egypt by granting the United States a legitimate military presence in the Sinai Peninsula.

The Egyptian leadership which inherited As-Sadat, the editorial said, will be hostage to the Camp David treaty as long as there were American forces in Sinai. Meanwhile Arab regimes are working to (?re-applaud) Egypt for reasons quite unconnected with Camp David. The Arab states are seeking to restore the balance within the Arab camp which was distorted by Egypt's defection.

Egypt has always deterred inter-Arab strife and played a conciliatory role in the Arab nation making Arab solidarity easier to achieve. Consequently in Egypt's absence regional disputes have flared up and a number of Arab states had not hesitated to request military and political protection from the United States.

The editorial went on: This does mean that the road to Arab solidarity passes through Camp David after April 25. Camp David is not a compulsory stopping point, and not one imposed by fate on the Arabs or on Egypt for that matter. The United States remains the party to gain most from Camp David and not Israel since the Egyptian people do not share their leaders' commitment to the recognition of Israel and the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

In short, FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH stated both Egypt and the Arabs have suffered most as a result of the Camp David deal. They approached April 25 in disarray and in captivity. After this stage the U.S. will continue to practice the same policy of levering Israeli force to pressure the Arabs and exercising hegemony under the guise of peace. The so-called autonomy scheme falls within this overall plan and must be rejected whole in any form whatever since its main aim is known.

The editorial concluded by saying that the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Galilee have already shown their readiness to oppose the autonomy scheme with force as they opposed the occupation and settlements.

ARAB LEAGUE'S YAZID ON PARIS BOMBING, LEBANON

PM271553 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Apr 82 p 10

[Paul Balta report: "Things Are Becoming Too Complicated To Know Who Is Behind What..."]

[Text] "I would have liked to represent a completely united Arab world...." That sentence, repeated twice in a weary voice by Mr M'hamed Yazid, adequately emphasized the extent to which the director of the Arab League bureau in France, a skillful dialectician if ever there was one, had a difficult task: On Wednesday 21 April, as soon as the violence of the Israeli bombing of Palestinian positions in Lebanon was known, we called a press conference to be held at 1500 the next day. The Rue Marbeuf outrage was bound to relegate the main subject of his statements to second place.

Although he refrained from commenting on the expulsion of two Syrian diplomats by the French authorities, Mr Yazid did not try to condemn or exonerate Damascus. Showered with questions, he merely replied: "For some time a large number of outrages have been committed in Paris but things are becoming too complicated to know who is behind what....

"I am not able to give you details on a matter subject to conflicting interpretations. I can only deplore the death of innocent victims...."

Nonetheless, Mr Yazid and his aides are asking many questions in private. Indeed, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam was due to meet with Mr Claude Cheysson this Friday but he canceled the stopover he was to make in Paris following the decisions taken by the French Government. Is it reasonable to think that Syrian agents would have sabotaged such a visit and compromised relations between the two countries by their gesture?

People in the Arab League are wondering if the outrage might have been financed or even executed by Israeli services, which have demonstrated their Machiavellian nature in the past. Was the Rue Marbeuf affair not timed a little "too well" to make people forget the Israeli raid on Lebanon and "tarnish the Arabs' image among French opinion?" Nonetheless, they are taking care not to express the hypothesis in public.

Mr Yazid described the bombing of Lebanon as an "act of gangsterism, piracy and state terrorism against an innocent population." "The Western chancellories," he added, "have information that these bombings are merely the prelude to large-scale action by Israel to occupy southern Lebanon and attempt a thrust into the Al-Biqa' plain" (where Syrian missiles are deployed). In conclusion, Mr Yazid expressed the fear that "the escalation of the war launched by Israel to eliminate the problem posed by the Palestinian people's struggle in its own way" might lead to "an apocalyptic situation in the Near East."

Questioned on the condemnation expressed by the Quai d'Orsay following the bombing of Lebanon, Mr Yazid replied: "There is progress. That must be said because the French Government's reactions had been frankly disappointing in other circumstances."

FRG WEEKLY INTERVIEWS PLO'S YASIR 'ARAFAT

DW270647 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 23 Apr 82 pp 19, 20

[Andreas Kohlschuetter interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat -- date and place not given]

[Text] ZEIT: A Palestinian revolt against the repressive measures of the Israeli occupation power is raging on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. How do you assess the situation?

Yasir 'Arafat: What is happening on the West Bank is part of our tragedy, just as the Palestinian exodus when 60 percent of our people were expelled and driven into the misery of refugees by the Israelis -- without a homeland, without a state, without even any identity documents. The Camp David agreements, the "autonomy" envisaged for the West Bank, the civilian administration imposed by Sharon, the annexation of Jerusalem, the dismissal of elected mayors and city council members, the closure of our universities and schools, the murderously bloody force against our youths who offer unarmed resistance -- this is the currency with which we are footing the bill for what you call the holocaust.

ZEIT: Do the Israelis intend to annex the West Bank?

'Arafat: This is the goal of their strategy. They are confiscating, expropriating and constantly seizing more land for the construction of new colonies and settlements, just as they have done from the very beginning in Palestine.

ZEIT: What can the PLO do to counteract the danger to the Palestinians' existence on the West Bank?

'Arafat: The Israeli military junta is actually stupid. It ought to know that the Palestinians cannot be bridled forever by sheer force.

We do realize, however, that we do not face the Israelis alone. We are confronted with the U.S. strategy in the Middle East, and we are victims of that policy. We are not reaching for the moon or stars. All we demand is that international law and UN resolutions be enforced.

ZEIT: Is the PLO directing the current revolt on the West Bank?

'Arafat: This is not my doing. The demonstrations, strikes and protest actions are supported by the masses.

ZEIT: Hasn't the PLO been called on in this emergency situation to provide political direction to the waves of protest on the West Bank?

'Arafat: It goes without saying that we are in contact with the people on the West Bank. However, don't forget that we handle Palestinian affairs in a democratic way. The revolt has been merely broken up; no power can tame or even stop it. All oppression leads to explosions of this kind and drives the oppressed people into resistance against the occupiers and invaders. This is a law of nature. That is why I am not worried, because we are in keeping with the course of history. We will attain our goal sooner or later.

ZEIT: You have not lost your optimism?

'Arafat: Why should I? The deeper the darkness, the closer the dawn. We are very close to it already.

ZEIT: Isn't Israel's arrogance of power also the consequence of the miserable state in which the Arab world finds itself -- quarelling and disunited by the Iraqi-Iranian Gulf war, the inheritance feud between Baghdad and Damascus, Egypt's exclusion...

'Arafat: Naturally. I see the facts and realities very clearly, and internal Arab tensions make matters very, very difficult. Yet, I had no problem convoking a special Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis within 48 hours after the revolt erupted on the West Bank.

ZEIT: Isn't it true that an amazing number of the 20 foreign ministers did not attend this meeting?

'Arafat: Some 12 foreign ministers, 2 representatives of ministerial rank and 6 ambassadors accredited to the Arab League attended.

ZEIT: Are you counting on practical steps?

'Arafat: Not very soon. We must keep all factors in mind. I am a pragmatist, I do not deal in dreams.

ZEIT: So many resolutions and so little Palestine...?

'Arafat: (Deep sigh) Palestine must not be viewed as just one of several local problems. It is the heart of the Middle East and the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is being decided in Palestine is the future of the Arab world and the Middle East, and not just the future of the Palestinians. Yet, we are in an extremely difficult situation, and not for the first time. We Arabs love too much and hate too much. This means that we are inclined to exaggerate our feelings of affection and dislike. This is why to non-Arabs the shifts and changes in course taking place in our region are as unpredictable as the movement of sand dunes.

ZEIT: Are you sure that time is working for the Palestinians? In the past 50 years, at any rate, the Palestine for which the Arabs are fighting has grown increasingly smaller.

'Arafat: We Palestinians are the most important factor in the Middle East equation, the odd number. Those now offering resistance to the Israelis on the West Bank are our small children who comprehend the significance of a stone in history. It was with a stone that David slew Goliath. This is what our youth is doing now in the fight against the new, the Israeli, Goliath.

ZEIT: You mean to say that you do not regard time as your enemy?

'Arafat: No, not at all, because unlike the Israelis we are moving along with the stream of history.

ZEIT: Against the background of the latest bloody events on the West Bank, does this mean the end of all Palestinian-Israeli plans for coexistence?

'Arafat: In 1969 we proposed that everyone should live together in this Palestine; Jews, Christians and Muslims in a secular and democratic state. However, Israel totally rejected this idea. I offered another solution in 1974. In my speech to the United Nations we expressed our readiness to set up our independent state in any part of the liberated territory or territory evacuated by the Israelis.

ZEIT: Does the offer still stand?

'Arafat: They rejected this second proposal as well and instead decided in favor of the Camp David plot with their so-called "civil administration" under the continuation of the occupation regime.

ZEIT: Does the coexistence offer still stand?

'Arafat: I submitted these two civilized proposals which were also approved by the supreme PLO organ, the National Council.

ZEIT: Will the PLO continue to seek a dialogue with progressive forces in Israel?

'Arafat: This dialogue is also part of our political program. I personally met once with two members of the Knesset in Sofia. This is in keeping with our Congress decisions, and I stand by that. Unlike Begin, who wanted to punish these two Knesset members, we have nothing to fear. On our part, all dialogue channels remain open.

ZEIT: Will the PLO possibly revert to a position of hardness, of more violence and terror?

'Arafat: Why? Why do you expect that? As far as we are concerned, fighting and resistance have always meant fighting and resistance with all means.

ZEIT: Thus there will be no radicalization in the sense of a renunciation of PLO policy pursued to date?

'Arafat: We are fighting for the Palestinians, to exist with human dignity, for our rights. I am an engineer by profession, and I am aware that no equation will work if you overlook one numeral -- otherwise the bridge breaks.

ZEIT: The Fahd peace plan was subject of a debate...

'Arafat: Not a plan, just proposals, Saudi Arabian proposals, advanced by Crown Prince Fahd. They are still on the agenda.

ZEIT: Do you stand by your originally positive assessment of this Saudi Arabian Middle East initiative which concedes the right to a secure existence to all states in the region, including Israel?

'Arafat: I stand by my view that this initiative offers a constructuve basis for a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problems. However, Israel and the U.S. administration rejected the Saudi proposals.

ZEIT: This should not prevent you from making it increasingly difficult for the Israelis to say "no" before the world public in general and the American public in particular?

'Arafat: I don't proceed based on the reactions of the Israelis. Begin, however, should not overlook the fact that I am one of the most important decisionmakers in the Middle East. There is no denying the Israelis ignored and refused to accept all UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue. In contrast, Israel is the only state that has come into existence as a result of such a UN resolution. Now that they have gained what they wanted, they reject all resolutions of the world organization. However, in the final analysis this attitude is tantamount to rejecting themselves, and thus they are letting themselves in for a dangerous game.

ZEIT: There is talk of an impending Israeli attack against the PLO in southern Lebanon. Do you share these fears?

'Arafat: The Begin leadership has openly admitted its aggressive plans. The Israelis can strike within hours. However, I am not worried about that. They are welcome.

ZEIT: You are not worried because of your military inferiority?

'Arafat: Our fighters realize that basically they are not facing the Israeli military force but the great military force of the United States. However, we are not easy to break. The Israelis were not able to finish off the PLO militarily in 1968 in Karameh or in 1978 or 1981 in southern Lebanon. They simply cannot cope with the storm of history. It is decisive that our guerrillas have broken through the wall of fear. The Israelis know this, so if they want to attack again, I will welcome them. I have nothing to lose -- on the contrary.

ZEIT: Are you certain?

'Arafat: General Dayan once made fun of us by saying that he could crush the Palestinian resistance like a raw egg at any time. The Palestinian resistance is like a sponge with growing absorption capacity. Whenever they think they have squashed us, we increase in strength and size.

ZEIT: How do you react to the Israeli accusation that the PLO has broken the 1981 cease-fire in southern Lebanon -- through fedayeen attacks, the alleged murder of an Israeli diplomat in Paris and through the massive arming of its armed forces in southern Lebanon?

'Arafat: Let me first make it absolutely clear that there is no connection between the crime in Paris and the PLO. Regarding the other assertions, the Israelis should reread the agreements we have made with UN representatives. I adhere to the cease-fire beyond the Lebanese borders, and I have given my word of honor in this respect. Do you know the Israelis have broken the cease-fire more than 200 times since July 1981? What do you have to say about the Israeli naval blockade along the Lebanese coast as far up as Beirut or about the constant intrusion of Israeli fighters into Lebanese airspace? How do you assess the fact that our Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank territory are being chased, beaten and murdered by the Israelis?

ZEIT: Is the PLO helped by doing nothing? Aren't various extremist Palestinian groups resisting this?

'Arafat: We know we must adhere to agreements we have made. We are not terrorists like Begin or his foreign minister, Shamir. There is also something else. The Israelis do not want to recognize the PLO at any price and yet they cite the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. With whom was this agreement made? Ghosts?

ZEIT: But wasn't it decided just recently at the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis to reopen the border of those states next to Israel to the Palestinian fedayeen and isn't that at odds with their cease-fire commitments?

'Arafat: This concerns the borders of Syria, Jordan and Egypt only, not those of Lebanon, which continue to be excluded.

ZEIT: Hasn't the passage of time changed anything in your flat rejection of the Camp David agreements?

'Arafat: Now as before we fully reject As-Sadat's Camp David policy and the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli agreements. They entail an enslaving of the Palestinian people. This is why Anwar as-Sadat remains a Middle East quisling. The Egyptian people, who are the important thing in the final analysis, made their decision on 6 October 1981.

ZEIT: What significance do you attribute to the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April?

'Arafat: There will be changes -- slight and gradual ones -- but they will occur.

ZEIT: Changes that will entail Egypt's return to the Arab fold and a normalization between Cairo and the PLO?

'Arafat: Yes, there will be a gradual and cautious change in this direction. Everything will depend on the Egyptians themselves, including the opposition forces. I have a lot of confidence in the Egyptian people and army. I am sure there are ties of friendship between the Egyptian people and the Palestinian people. I am also convinced that President Mubarak will fulfill the wishes of his people.

ZEIT: How do you assess the 11-point plan on Palestinian rights which the Egyptian delegation submitted some days ago to the meeting of nonaligned foreign ministers in Kuwait and which demands "mutual and simultaneous recognition between the Palestinian people and Israel"?

'Arafat: That was nothing but a speech, and I am generally against the points it contained.

ZEIT: Ilyas Frayj, Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem, has also recently called for political negotiations between the PLO and Israel on the basis of "comprehensive and total mutual recognition." Why do you oppose it?

'Arafat: We are the ones under attack in the Middle East conflict, not the aggressors. This is why it is impossible to expect us, Palestinians and victims of the aggression, to recognize the aggressor. We cannot do that.

ZF : Don't you even consider these Egyptian proposals made in Kuwait for the solution of the Palestinian problem (for example the right to an independent West Bank state with east Jerusalem as its capital) to be proof that Mubarak wants to make rather long strides back toward the PLO?

'Arafat: I prefer to wait and see.

ZEIT: Hasn't Mubarak regained the Sinai Peninsula for Egypt and for the Egyptian people with whom you are closely tied?

'Arafat: He has received a difficult inheritance and bears a heavy burden.

ZEIT: Will you therefore have patience with him?

'Arafat: I am very patient in general, not just with Mubarak. Patience is a firm component of our struggle.

ZEIT: What is the role Europe might play in the Middle East?

'Arafat: Are the Europeans actually still interested in playing a role here? In my view, no. They are increasingly losing their way, role and weight. They only follow along in the United States' footsteps.

ZEIT: Can't Egypt's influence bring about changes in Israel?

'Arafat: I doubt it. The Israelis will never allow that. Besides, the Egyptians are forced to participate in the Camp David game, and the Israel of the Zionist movement basically does not want any changes or a peaceful settlement. Rather, its leaders are seeking more territorial expansion.

ZEIT: It is said that the PLO is relying increasingly on the USSR. What is your reaction to such an allegation?

'Arafat: Are you against this? Isn't Federal Chancellor Schmidt doing the same? I am not in a position to engage in important deals with the Russians as the Federal Republic is with its gas deal. However, you must remember the Russians support our just cause and do not deviate from this policy.

ZEIT: You once spoke before the UN General Assembly and offered not only a gun but an olive branch as well to Israel and the world. Has this branch whithered or is it still green?

'Arafat: My support is solid and strong. I stand by what I say. These are no empty slogans. I am a man of history with a vision for the future -- the only future that stands a chance in the Middle East.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM URGES EGYPT TO ABROGATE TREATY

GF271620 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Apr 82 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "General Sharon's Era"]

[Excerpts] In his Order of the Day to his army on the occasion of the withdrawal from the Sinai, Israeli Defense Minister General Sharon pledged this will be the last "concession" Israel will make, and there will be no more withdrawals from any other territory. He called on the army to build more settlements "on our land in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights."

Thus, the Order of the Day Sharon addressed to his army appears addressed to the Arabs at the same time -- addressed to them as a challenge as well as a declaration that withdrawal from the Sinai should not be linked to further withdrawal. He is suggesting to those Arabs who are still relying on the United States that they should not expect any results from such reliance. Begin has also warned that Israel does not heed U.S. orders -- assuming there are U.S. orders which conflict with Israel's wishes.

Thus, it transpires that withdrawal from the Sinai will mean further Israeli intransigence and further killings to compensate for the withdrawal from the Sinai and to raise the morale of the army which has been nurtured on being invincible.

We would certainly be guilty of a great folly were we to assume the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai is a precedent that will be repeated in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The facts are clear, and Sharon has spelled them out. The fundamental issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict lies in the territories that are still occupied and not in the Sinai, for the Sinai is not the arena of Israel's demographic and historic expansion. This is evidenced by the fact that Israel established only a few settlements in the Sinai, the most important of which was Yamit, whereas it has established hundreds of settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights because it neither wants nor intends to withdraw from these terrtirories.

Israel has withdrawn from the Sinai in return for bringing Egypt out of the Arab fold. However, it knows that withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights is dictated by geography and by ambitions that lie eastward -- toward the oil and the Euphrates. In this context exists the close and strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist state, for here lies the means to control the Arab region and consequently the nonsocialist world.

As we have said in the past, the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai confirms the Camp David policy was formed and remains outside the basic issue -- the Palestinian question. While we are happy when Israel evacuates any Arab territory -- including, of course the Sinai -- we are now waiting for an Egyptian role which we hope President Husni Mubarak will assume. And there is a historic precedent in Egypt: It was An-Nahhas Pasha [an Egyptian prime minister during the monarchy] who concluded the Egyptian treaty with Britain, and it was he who later abrogated it. If Israel wants to chain Egypt with its treaty, then Egypt should break these chains and return to its normal position, for it is not normal for Egypt to be chained.

Perhaps Egypt will henceforth become a factor in alleviating the disaster befallen the people of the eastern front and blinded their hearts and sight, repeating the story of Cain and Abel.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES BUDGET DEFICIT 26 APRIL

GF271132 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Apr 82 pp 1, 2

[All figures as published]

[Text] Kuwait, April 25 (Agencies) -- Government announced today a KD3.206 billion (12.3 billion dollars) budget with a deficit of KD312.6 million (1.1 billion dollars) -- the first since the oil price boom of 1973-1974.

Announcing the budget after a Cabinet meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn said that it involves a KD312.6 million deficit which is the difference between projected expenditure of KD3.518 billion (12.3 billion dollars) and a total income of KD3.206 billion (1.2 billion dollars). He said revenue from oil exports constitutes 92 per cent of income.

This year's budget is higher by KD1.8 million (560 million dollars) or five percent, than last year's budget, which had a surplus of more than KD19 million (six billion dollars). Husayn said this year's deficit will be financed from the state's public reserves, amassed during the oil boom years.

No exact estimate is available about the reserves, but Minister of Finance 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad said earlier this week that Kuwait would "go bankrupt in four years" if current expenditures continue to rise without a matching increase in oil revenues.

Kuwait is currently producing about 650,000 barrels a day, the lowest in its history.

The new budget figures indicated a decline in oil revenues and a slide rise in non-petroleum proceeds.

Husayn said following the meeting "This is the second time the budget runs into deficit. The first time was in 1973 when Arab oil exporting countries decided to embargo oil exports to Western states, a move that triggered just a minor deficit then."

The new budget estimated non-petroleum returns at 4 percent compared with 3.5 percent in the current budget.

Spending allocations were 19.9 percent (KD630 million dinars) for salaries and wages -- 12.6 percent (50 million dinars) for commodities and services -- 1.6 percent (50 million dinars) for means of transportation and equipment -- 19.1 percent (603 million dinars) for constructional projects -- 4.7 percent (150 million dinars) for general expropriation.

The bulk of 42.1 percent (1.335 billion dinars) is for transferable payments which include national commitments, subsidies, the allocations of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and other allocations for the army and military generations reserve.

Minister Husayn said this is the first time the budget registers a marginal increase of 5 per cent in comparison with the year before.

The budget proposal will be submitted to the amiri diwan in prelude for presentation to the National Assembly where a special committee will make some amendments prior to final endorsement.

It is expected to be in effect on next July 1.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RAIDS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

GF271855 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] Khalid Muhammad Ja'far, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, received Nikolay Sikachev, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, at his office at 1100 on 25 April. They held a comprehensive review of the good relations existing between the two countries in various fields.

They also reviewed Arab and international issues of mutual interest, particularly issues connected with last week's savage attack by Israeli planes on unarmed Lebanese and Palestinian civilians in Beirut and southern Lebanon. The head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department said the Soviet ambassador also conveyed the Soviet Government's strong condemnation of the Zionist entity's inhuman actions against Arab citizens.

OMAN

GCC IMMIGRATION BODY MEETS, ISSUES STATEMENT

GF271821 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The GCC Immigration, Passports and Labor Committee of Directors ended a 2-day meeting in Muscat today. The committee issued the following concluding statement:

The GCC Immigration, Passports, and Labor Committee of Directors met in Muscat 26-27 April 1982. The committee studied the agenda presented to it by the GCC General Secretariat. Following the discussion of all topics on the agenda in sincere fraternity, the committee decided to make the necessary arrangements for the unification of all regulations adopted by the GCC member states, including immigration, passports, residence, labor, and naturalization regulations, in order to reach a standard system which will illustrate the spirit on which the GCC is based and for which the GCC leaders strive. The committee also decided to take measures to furnish the GCC citizens with all facilities to guarantee the freedom of labor, residence and travel among the GCC member states. The committee charged the GCC General Secretariat with examining the regulations currently accredited by the GCC member states, and with forming competent technical committees which will present their recommendations to the ministers of the interior at their upcoming meeting for setting forth a system which provides further measures to guarantee the safeguarding of the security and stability of the GCC states and the strengthening of their different security organs by including the adoption of the most advanced systems of the developed world's countries.

The committee also decided to send a thank you cable to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman expressing the committee's sincere thanks and gratitude for the intensive care the committee received and the facilities with which it was furnished, which highly affected the success of this committee, and wishing his majesty perpetual health and success and his government and the Omani people perpetual progress and prosperity.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH SPECULATES ON EFFECTS OF SINAI WITHDRAWAL

LD271830 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Hashim Abduh Hashim commentary]

[Text] There were varied reactions to the Israeli withdrawal yesterday from the last part of the Arab Sinai. Some saw the withdrawal as nothing more than an advance step on the road to consolidating the Camp David policy, while others saw it as a victory for Arab willpower that strongly clings to its rights and that is determined to retrieve every inch of Arab land. Still others saw it as a replacement of the Israeli presence by another foreign presence. There were also some who said the Arabs have achieved through dialogue and negotiations what they have failed to achieve by three wars.

There are also some who believe there will be no peace after the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai because this withdrawal has not been complete and comprehensive and that, so far, the withdrawal that has taken place has been no more than a limited step on a road through which the Israelis must prove their true intentions for seeing peace and reassurance established in the region.

Yet there are some who go even further. They believe Egypt will now find itself closer to its Arab brothers because it has made a great achievement which, in fact, is an achievement for all Arabs. Others attempt to cast doubts on any likely Israeli readiness to lose the land and Egypt's neutrality in the Arab-Israeli conflict. They believe Israel's withdrawal could not have been achieved except in return for adquate Egyptian and American guarantees, which would further enhance the process of normalizing Egyptian-Israeli relations, widen the scope of cooperation between them and prolong -- and prehaps even further worsen in the coming stage the estrangement between Egypt and the Arabs.

Yet there are some who believe Egypt will try to affirm to the other Arab countries that Israel's withdrawal was not an Egyptian achievement as much as it was an Arab achievement and that continuation of the autonomy talks will eventually lead to a specific formula and the declaration of clear principles which would open the road toward further retrievals of Arab rights usurped in the 1967 war and lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, the restoration of all rights and the imposition of Arab and Palestinian sovereignty over every inch of land occupied in 1967.

All these developments have followed the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and opened the door for numerous conflicting views and expectations on the future of relations between Egypt and Israel on the one hand and the future of relations between Egypt and the Arabs on the other.

However, what should take place on the Arab level for facing the postwithdrawal stage, in fact goes beyond mere visualization and rises to the level of actions and deeds. In the past, the Arab and Islamic nation has lost a great deal because it has exhausted itself in uttering statements, exchanging views on likelihoods and trying to visualize true or false dimensions of events and developments.

Things are different now, and there is a vital and urgent need to adopt positive stands and clear, well-defined policies free from all contradiction, unaffected by numerous affiliations or desires for the assertion of individualism or showing off, and uninfluenced by individual conflicts or varying views.

If we are truly loyal to the cause and if we really are anxious to attain specific objectives, foremost of which is the evacuation of the enemies and the elimination of all foreign presence in our land, and the exercise of our rights and complete sovereignty over every particle of our sand, then we must use this event as a starting point toward the crystalization of past stages, the liquidation of all forms of squabbling, -- we must gather around one table with clear intentions and true Arab Islamic spirit and complete faith in the cause. We must make the slogan of the coming stage "Arab Fraternity as the Road to Unified Action for the Retrieval of Arab and Palestinian Rights."

As we witness this watershed event, we must remember the mistakes of the past would not have taken place if the Arab and Islamic nation had moved from the stage of words, protests, rejections and objection to the stage of drawing up the total dimensions of future steps and consequently defining the course of joint action to be taken to fulfill the many promises they have made to their peoples -- and failed to fulfill amid their continued emotional eruptions.

The common Arab destiny calls on all men with lively consciences to deal with the coming stage with all clarity, truth and honesty and to cast away all past tactics of the mob and turn the nation's weaknesses to sources of strength. The attainment of this result is the only thing that will force all the enemies to respect their commitments and oblige them to evacuate our lands and help us regain our full rights.

AR-RIYAD CLAIMS MILITARY OPTION ONLY SOLUTION

PM270947 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 24 Apr 82 p 18

[Ibrahim Jazzini article: "Diplomatic Bankruptcy and the Military Solution"]

[Excerpts] Israel has finally carried out its threat and has shifted the scenario from the occupied territory to southern Lebanon. Its aggression covered a 70-km area stretching from the outskirts of Beirut to the outskirts of Tyre. Palestinian women and children were the main target of the Israeli aggression which has extended to new areas "to punish the terrorists" as terrorist Sharon says.

Israel's repeated aggressions cannot possibly eliminate Palestinian and Arab determination. Israel's daily violation of international law and attacks on innocent people and holy places only enhance Arab resolve to resist all the way, and mean that the Arabs are faced with a battle of destiny in which they must engage regardless of all Arab circumstances and differences.

After this wanton aggression, the Arabs now realize diplomacy has failed to solve the Middle East problem and the only option left is military, and this will cost Israel, and of course Washington, more than it will cost the Arabs. Israel knows this fact and would supposedly have heeded it had it not been for the open U.S. support for Israel and the recent changes in the attitudes of certain European states.

Israel may or may not withdraw from the Sinai tomorrow but the United States remains the side solely responsible for Israel's abominable crimes in the region.

CHATTI REPORTS TO KING KHALID ON PEACE MISSION

LD242016 Riyadh SPA in English 1910 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Apr (SPA) -- King Khalid has called on an Islamic goodwill mission seeking to bring the 19-month-old Iraq-Iran war to an end to persist in its peace efforts irrespective of the difficulties, Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) said here today.

In a statement to SPA, Chatti who earlier today called on the Saudi monarch for a briefing on the outcome of the mission's shuttle between Baghdad and Tehran lately, said he had explained to the king "the difficulties facing the committee and obstacles still existing on the road to peace." He did not elaborate.

Chatti, who later had a meeting also with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the latest developments of the Iraqi-Iranian situation, added that the monarch thanked the committee chairman, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and members for efforts exerted so far in seeking an end to the Gulf war.

Mr Chatti explained that he had reported to King Khalid on the outcome of the mediatory mission, in the monarch's capacity as chairman of the third Islamic summit, which had entrusted the committee with the peace task.

He said that over the last few days, the committee sought to bring closer the views of the two warring countries and stop the raging armed conflict.

"His majesty gave instructions that the committee should maintain its mission and exert all possible efforts irrespective of the difficulties and obstacles standing in the way," Chatti added.

King Khalid expressed the hope that the committee would succeed in reestablishing peace between the two Moslem countries in the interest of Islam and the whole Moslem nation, the ICO secretary-general said.

Crown Prince Fahd, Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince 'Abdallah, as well as Prince Faysal were present during the royal audience.

UAE

AL-FAJR ON SINAI WITHDRAWAL, EGYPT'S RETURN

GF271416 Abu Dhabi Al-FAJR in Arabic 25 Apr 82 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] After 15 years of Israeli occupation, the Sinai returns to Egyptian rule today. The Egyptian flag will fly high after long absence on 25 April -- a day that has been awaited for a long time.

This land has seen too much. Many incidents have occurred on its soil for many years. This holy land concealed so many martyrs and absorbed their blood that its soil turned perfumatory. Certainly, we will not forget those who sacrificed their lives and blood in the Sinai. This land witnessed the embodiment of the noble values of Arab unity in 1973, when many Arabs participated in the glorious October war.

Today, no matter how much opinions differ and no matter how the angles from which we view matters differ, the Sinai is above all an Arab land and its liberation not only a gain for Egypt but for all the Arabs. When the Sinai returns to Egypt today, we will all stand up for every martyr who irrigated this land with his blood. We all have memories in it and we all have a hero who devoted or waged war on this land.

With the arrival of this awaited day, thoughts of what will happen afterwards and what changes will take place in the arena come to mind. Thoughts are many in this regard, and they have been discussed for months. Many of us have hopes while others have fears. Everyone is waiting and hoping for the return of the spirit of unity and the return of Arab solidarity to the Arab nation. Aspirations are the same. Arab solidarity and unity is everyone's aspiration. The actual result depends on the efforts and the ability of our nation to end all differences and resolve all problems so that we can all stand united, support each other and seriously and loyally work for the release of the rest of our occupied territories. Maybe we can achieve our goals if we unite our ranks and decide to work together with all the means at our disposal, which are more than enough.

The change which we are hoping for should take place as long as we have a strong will. Tomorrow, Arab Egypt will return to us strong and free as it has always been -- the throbbing heart in the nation's body. It will soon shoulder its full responsibility with us in order to liberate the whole land and establish a free and independent Palestinian state so that the banner of Arabism will always fly high.

CAIRO PRESS COMMENTARY ON MUBARAK SPEECH

NC270028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA) -- The historic, important speech President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered today on the occasion of the completion of the Sinai's liberation dominates tomorrow's editions of Cairo papers. The papers agree that Mubarak defined the coming stage in this important speech at the domestic and foreign levels, now that the Sinai has been returned to the bosom of the mother homeland.

The major headlines of the papers -- which include passages from the speech -- concentrate on Mubarak's statement that the Palestinian problem is the key to the solution and that it is the guarantee to the peace and stability in the Middle East. They also highlight his excellency's affirmation that there is to be no bargaining over Tabah and that October's generation will not waste an inch of the sacred land.

In their editorials, the papers continue discussing the historic, important achievement -- the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai. AL-AKHBAR affirms that the completion of the withdrawal on schedule is evidence Egypt has recreated history and has opened the door for the peace policy so other Arabs may take their position in the area.

The paper reports that President Husni Mubarak's statement that the Palestinian problem is the key to the solution and the conclusion of a quick settlement to it within the framework of the international legality is the only guarantee for stability and security in the area. AL-AKHBAR adds that the peace policy will undoubtedly tie all Arabs together with the string of power, love, and the attainment of all rights for which they work, in the autonomy negotiations and the rights of the Palestinian people and every Arab right that is being sought, so peace might be achieved and the Arabs may concentrate on building themselves. Then, differences would not exhaust them and would not divide their ranks and foreign interests that infiltrate into their ranks and ask for growth with and settlement among them, at their own expense, might not divide them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms in its editorial that the liberation of the land imposes new commitments on the part of the Egyptian people and that these commitments must be met by a determined will -- the will and strength of the October man, who achieved victory in both war and peace.

The paper also affirms that the pleasure of victory will be consolidated more by building, production, more work, effort, and sacrifices through a greater belief in the common interest which is, in the end, the interest of the individual.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: Our happiness should be in proportion to what we give to our beloved soil, to Egypt's name, and Egypt is first and always foremost.

MUBARAK GREETS NAVON, BEGIN ON NATIONAL DAY

NC271004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to Israeli President Yitzhaq Navon on the occasion of Israel's national day:

It pleases me to convey to Your Excellency on behalf of the Egyptian people and on my own behalf sincerest congratulations on the occasion of your celebration of national day, affirming on this occasion our determination to maintain our joint efforts for achieving a just and lasting peace for our peoples and all peoples in the Middle East. With my best wishes to you and to the Israeli people.

The president has also sent the following congratulatory cable to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the same occasion:

It pleases me to convey to you on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt and on my own behalf sincerest congratulations on the occasion of your celebration of national day. On this occasion, I would like to express my complete confidence that the peace process, which we started together and with which we realized splendid achievements, will go ahead until a just and lasting peace prevails in our area, so that all our peoples may enjoy security, safety and stability. With my best wishes to you and to the Israeli people.

'ALI INTERVIEW ON POSTWITHDRAWAL POLICY

NC252141 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 25 Apr 82

[From 'With The Foreign Policy" program -- interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Today's program of "With The Foreign Policy" is completely devoted to the precious historic occasion being celebrated by Egypt, the Arab peoples and the whole world. It is being celebrated by the honorable masses who soundly appraise this historic step of the withdrawal from the Sinai as being a gain not only for Egypt but also for the Arab nation and world peace. In today's program, we are happy to host Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in a comprehensive interview on the meaning and significance of the total Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai for a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

['Ali] Actually, the historic achievement made today is the result of long years of blood, sweat, effort and determination. After the 1967 setback, it was clear to the whole world that Egypt and its armed forces rejected defeat and were working persistently to liquidate the effects of the aggression. The Egyptian Armed Forces quickly regained their balance and confidence and their ability to give and sacrifice. There was great concentration on training and planning. This was followed by the late President as-Sadat's decision to launch the October war. With the help of God, the great October achievement was the beginning of a concrete development in the situation in the area which led to the opening of the doors of peaceful work to find a just and honorable settlement. The late President as-Sadat launched his historic initiative in November 1977 by visiting Jerusalem, followed by the exhaustive discussions that led to the signing of the Camp David agreements in September 1978 and then the Egyptian-Israeli treaty in March 1979. After this, Egyptian diplomacy began a consistent effort, which has not stopped until now, in three principal areas. These are the autonomy talks, the normalization of relations with Israel and the preparations for the restoration of the Sinai and the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over it.

Scores of committees and hundreds of successive meetings were convened in Egypt, Israel and the United States as well as in more than one European capital. Scores of elite employees in the Egypitan diplomatic corps waged one of their most difficult experiences and shouldered the responsibility with national pride. They worked with me, just as their brothers in the armed forces did, for the same noble aim -- the restoration of Egypt's land and the restoration of Egypt's complete sovereignty over its national soil.

The efforts that have been made up to today, 25 April 1982, are, by all measures, a unique achievement that will remain the source of pride for us all.

[Question] What happens after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal today, which is considered an implementation of the second part of the Camp David accords?

[Answer] With the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, the second part of the Camp David accords will have been implemented in full. After that, what remains will be the first part concerning peace in the Middle East. Egypt, with the participation of the United States and Israel, will seek to implement this part through the resumption of the Camp David talks with a view to achieving general principles that will ensure the establishment of a transitional authority in the West Bank and Gaza that can alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians there through the establishment of full Palestinian autonomy which would prepare for the settlement of the Palestinian problem from all its angles, in accordance with the provisions of the Camp David accord and with the participation of the Palestinians in deciding their future.

[Question] Today is considered the beginning of a new stage in the diplomatic activity that will be launched by the Arab Republic of Egypt. What are the dimensions of this activity after the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai has been completed?

[Answer] Actually, the Foreign Ministry's work is interrelated in all directions and with all the countries of the world in which Egypt is represented. But the ministry's departments are currently working to full capacity to prepare for the next stage of diplomatic activity, which extends to three principal axes: The first is the axis of talks for full Palestinian autonomy. It is expected that contacts will take place in the coming few days with the United States and Israel to agree on a date for the resumption of the talks. I think a session of talks may be held for this purpose during May. The second axis is that of African work in an attempt to rescue the OAU from the divisions facing it as a result of the recent development in the Nairobi conference and to restore the organization's activity for real African solidarity and for cooperation among the continent's states in order to defend their interests and develop their huge resources. The third axis of diplomatic activity is the axis of work within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement to prepare for the next summit conference in Baghdad. In this respect, Egypt is working on the basis of its leading position in the movement and in its capacity as a founding state and on the basis of the need to work to safeguard the movement against the dangers of polarization and to promote its efforts to maintain world peace and to liquidate the areas of tension in the world.

[Question] Many people ask about the relations between the Arab Republic of Egypt and Arab countries after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. What is your view on Egyptian-Arab relations in the new stage beginning tomorrow?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, relations with the Arabs are of interest to us. Egypt is an Arab country. Egypt absolutely did not start the rupture of relations with the Arab countries. Egypt's policy is still the same; its doors are open to the resumption of Arab-Egyptian relations. The whole matter is that certain Arab countries are attempting to prevent a resumption of Egypt's relations with the Arab countries. Egypt, however, will continue to open its arms to a return to Arab solidarity in the interest of the Arab nation. Egypt absolutely has not relinquished its role in the Arab countries nor its pan-Arab goals. Egypt embraced the Palestinian question and fought for it, and now it embraces it, seeking a solution peacefully.

Egypt will continue its efforts to resolve the Palestinian question, which is the principal issue of the entire Arab world. As I have said, there are no conditions for the return of Arab relations wit' Egypt. However, we are committed to all international treaties we have signed. We are committed to the peace march. This is our political line. We welcome the return of the Arab countries, provided they will not impose anything on us or we on them. Another point is that I do not believe that the Baghdad summit resolutions, which included boycotting Egypt, are fit for the return of relations. We know that some time must pass so Arab solidarity will regain its influence and significance.

[Question] Regarding the role that Egypt must play -- after achieving peace with Israel -- in pacifying the situation in the Arabian Gulf and Lebanon and among the Arab countries both in (?Asia) and in Africa and in stopping the war between Iraq and Iran, what are your views of the role Egypt must play in calming the situation in the region?

[Answer] If you have followed Egypt's diplomatic moves in the past few years, you have found that Egypt has constantly worked to ensure a cease-fire by virtue of its relations with Israel and the United States. Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, we called from the beginning for stopping the bloodshed among Muslims. We have maintained this policy since the eruption of the Iraqi-Iranian war. We will maintain this attitude that peace must be established between the two Islamic states. Regarding the Gulf countries, certainly they are Arab countries in which Egypt has interest. The Gulf countries' security is Egypt's security. Egypt has a strategic outlook concerning this area that takes into consideration the security of this region and countries if it is asked for help to establish security and peace.

AL-AHRAM EDITORIAL ON POSTWITHDRAWAL POLICY

PM271439 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Apr 82 pp 1, 3

[Chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' editorial: "What Happens After the Hoisting of the Flag and the Return of the Sinai"]

[Excerpts] When the Egyptian flag is raised over Egyptian territory in Rafah on Sunday, the Sinai in its entirety will again come under Egyptian sovereignty for the first time since 5 June 1967.

The big question for all of us, people and leadership, is: What happens after the final withdrawal and the restoration of the occupied territory? How does Egypt envisage its foreign policy on the Arab, Islamic and African levels in the coming phase?

An even more important question is: What internal work is now required for the sake of the Egyptian people after the bitter wars, the exhaustion of resources, and development problems?

The truth is that the answers to these questions require us to express our views without prejudice on principles in which we believed and which we upheld as an Arab and Islamic State -- views that are at the same time in harmony with the facts of the new era including changes in the world and circumstances which have definitely affected, and have been affected, by our Arab region, in addition to our own special circumstances since 1977.

These views are:

1. Our relations with Israel: Egypt has adhered to the Camp David agreement. It considers this agreement a certain, existing reality. Accordingly, the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel is expected to continue and to reach the maximum possible level of relations between two neighboring countries with diplomatic, commercial and cultural ties. This does not mean that there will be special or distinguished relations in the short term, because this would depend on the continuation of constructive dialogue that would preserve and stabilize peace and spread it further in the region.

The withdrawal from the Sinai will certainly remove many sensitivities. A speedy solution of the technical problem of the Tabah area in accordance with the arbitration process would strengthen and develop the cordial relations between the two countries. We all know territorial or border disputes are among the most serious issues affecting relations between any two countries. Furthermore, the refusal of the Israeli Government to submit, now or in the future, to the wishes of extremist Israeli elements would positively and quickly contribute to the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

2. Egypt and the Arab states: Without complicating the issue, we quite simply say that Egypt's door is open to all. Egypt imposes no conditions on brothers and no restrictions on fellow Arabs. Let those who severed their relations with Egypt restore them if they wish, and let those who imposed sanctions against Egypt lift those sanctions if they wish. Egypt, however, will under no circumstances be lured into the labryinths of Arab differences, but it is most positively prepared to help consolidate stability in the Arab region with all means. Egypt does not want to interfere in the affairs of the Arab states' regimes, and equally it does not want any state to interfere in Egypt's international affairs. Egypt holds certain views regarding the Arab League Charter and the change that it will inevitably have to undergo. It holds certain views regarding the main principles governing investment in the Arab states such as guarantees of Arab capital, freedom of movement for individuals, freedom of communication, and the need to keep all this free from political influence and rulers.

Egypt will not interfere in the affairs of others but it will intervene militarily if its immediate interests are threatened or if Sudan's security and stability are threatened. These quite simply and without complication are Egypt's views regarding its relations with the Arab states. It makes no conditions to anyone and equally rejects any conditions from anyone.

3. The Nonaligned Movement: We believe the essence of the policy of nonalignment has changed. Very briefly, the aims of that policy used to be: Liberation and independence for countries under the yoke of imperialism, and protection of the interests of Third World or, more accurately, poor states.

We now believe that every state has its own strategic line that at least protects its own and its people's vital interests. In other words there is nothing to prevent any nonaligned state from having special relations with any superpowers. We do not see this as a violation of the concept of nonalignment.

To put it more clearly, we say that Egypt, for example, believes in the principle that the nonaligned states should not join pacts and should not give military bases to any state, but it agrees to provide military facilities or hold joint exercises with the United States, from which Egypt obtains arms and which played a full role in the Camp David agreement. One very important aspect of that role was the building of two military bases for Israel -- at the cost of $2 billion -- as a compensation for the loss of the Sinai bases, which really was a contributing factor to the full withdrawal from the Sinai.

The fundamental task of the nonaligned states at present is to prevent the proliferation of destructive weapons, bring an end to nuclear armament, and use a major part of the funds earmarked for armament to finance development projects in the poor states living in poverty or dying because of it.

4. Internal work: Quite frankly, there is no longer any acceptable excuse -- if in the past we accepted some excuses -- for delaying sound planning and even sounder implementation. We are not preparing for military battle any more. The pain and nightmare of occupation are now ended, and the only battle left is the battle of building the state and developing the armed forces so that they may protect security and economic development. All this requires the following:

A. Those who are afraid to make decisions or who are incapable of making decisions should step down or be removed. There is no time left for excuses or justifications.

B. The plans should be clear and priorities should be even clearer. They should be known to all in the government, the public sector and the private sector.

C. Error is possible, but corruption is both unacceptable and intolerable. Nobody is infallible. Corruption, however, is another matter, and the law should deal with it. Justice should have the final word on this matter.

D. Government departments' discipline and disciplined performance should precede individual discipline. These departments should be the ones to set the example, not the other way around.

E. All parties, and foremost among them the majority party, should play a pioneering and essential role in promoting national consciousness.

GHALI ADDRESSES ARAB JOURNALISTS IN CAIRO

NC271453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that the idea of peace and its achievement must be the basic and genuine idea prevailing in the world to achieve progress and prosperity for the peoples and that this can only be achieved through peace.

Dr Ghali was speaking at a press conference attended by a group of Arab journalists, representing most of the Arab information media, now visiting Cairo to cover the Egyptian celebrations marking the restoration of territory and withdrawal from Sinai.

Dr Ghali told the journalists: I would like to convey through you a special message: We must cooperate together and believe in Arab solidarity. Through this solidarity we can overcome the differences. We must face our differences with calm and work for peace because there can be no progress for our peoples without peace.

Asked to comment on the cables exchanged between His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and President Husni Mubarak, Dr Ghali said that they affirm Arab solidarity will overcome the Arab differences. He added: The Arab differences are not a new phenomenon. There were Arab differences between 1945 and 1977 and there will be other differences between 1977 and 2000. However, it is important that Arab differences be settled through peaceful means, within the Arab framework and in a spirit of Arab solidarity and that we overcome these differences.

At his press conference, Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt had never been isolated from the Arab world, as it has good relations with Sudan, Oman and Somalia. He pointed out that more than 3 million Egyptians with worldwide expertise work very hard in various medical, cultural, educational economic and engineering fields in all Arab states which welcome them. He said: Therefore, I do not agree that there is complete estrangement between Egypt and the Arab states.

Dr Ghali added: Arab solidarity will overcome all the differences sooner or later. There are currently differences among Arab states that are much worse than ours.

The minister went on to say the triump of Egyptian diplomacy now is a victory in the cause of peace and a future victory for the comprehensive and just peace in the area.

Dr Ghali stressed that the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, its return to Egyptian sovereignty and the raising of the Egyptian flag over it heralded the end of an era and opened the door for new Egyptian activities for reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

Dr Ghali was asked at his press conference whether Lebanon was currently paying the price for the Camp David accords. He answered: I hope you will not forget the Lebanese crisis erupted 4 years before the Camp David accords. I do not believe that the continuing Lebanese crisis has any connection with the accords. The Lebanese crisis is, regrettably, a manifestation of the current differences inside the Arab society.

Asked to explain what departed leader Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat meant when he said "Keep your hands off Lebanon", Dr Ghali said: President as-Sadat meant that the settlement of the Lebanese crisis should be done by ironing out the differences inside Lebanon itself. Egypt's stance on the Lebanese issue calls for the need to preserve the Lebanese territorial integrity and political independence and noninterference of other states in the affairs of Lebanon.

Asked whether Egypt's agreements with Israel give Israel a special character different from other states, Dr Ghali answered: The relations between Egypt and Israel are normal and ordinary just as relations existing between Egypt and 150 other states in the world. We reject any special relations with Israel. This principle is included in the peace treaty and all the agreements signed with Israel.

Dr Ghali denied that security arrangements in the Sinai detract from Egyptian sovereignty over it. He said: Egypt and Israel have agreed that the military presence in certain areas in the Sinai will be less than other areas. This is not confined to Egyptian territory only but also covers Israeli territory, where the military presence will be limited. He added: The object of this is to stabilize peace in the area. This agreement was concluded with the free will of Egypt and in accordance with the dictates of full Egyptian sovereignty over it [the Sinai].

Answering a question on Tabah, Dr Ghali said: The disagreement on Tabah is a disagreement over approximately 1,020 meters -- That is to say, a disagreement over a distance equal to that between the Foreign Ministry, where we are setting now, and the Hilton Hotel, which we can see from here.

Dr Ghali said: It has been agreed that Israeli forces will withdraw from this disputed area and Egyptian forces will not enter it. Multinational forces will replace Israeli and Egyptian forces during a transitional period. In accordance with article seven of the peace agreement, the disagreement on the interpretation of the border at this point will be resolved through reconciliation or arbitration. Therefore, we will institute action to determine which methods and measures must be adopted if we resort to reconciliation to achieve a solution. We hope this issue will be resolved as soon as possible.

Answering a question on Israel's possible storming of southern Lebanon and what Egypt's stand would be if this happens, Dr Ghali expressed the hope that self-restraint would be the main rule and that differences resulting from an aggression or interference would be resolved peacefully.

Dr Ghali pointed out that more negotiations and contacts under the framework of the United Nations or between Egypt and the friendly states group would contribute to the peaceful settlement of these crises.

Asked whether the autonomy negotiations have reached a deadlock, Dr Ghali said: We must continue diplomatic action to surmount any obstacles in the way of autonomy if no other framework is available. If such a framework is made available, then Egypt would welcome it. He stressed it is in the interest of peace, the Palestinian people, and the Arab group that these negotiations should continue because we can, through them, focus on the Palestinian question.

Otherwise, other questions would turn the world's attention from the Palestinian question as a priority one to a priority two or three issue. Ghali added: By continuing these negotiations we can draw world public attention and focus American, European and international attention on them. If another alternative is made available, then Egyptian diplomacy would welcome it.

Asked whether Egypt was prepared to arrange an agreement between Israel and the PLO, Ghali said: In his last speech in Washington, departed leader Anwar as-Sadat advocated the need for a dialgoue between the PLO and Israel. This requires a mutaul recognition by both sides.

To a question about the Iraqi-Iranian war, Gulf security, and Egypt's stand if this security is endangered, Ghali said: In his speech yesterday, Pesident Husni Mubarak said Egypt is prepared to carry out a conciliatory role to end the Iraqi-Iranian war peacefully. On the other hand, Egypt adheres to the 1950 joint [Arab] defense treaty. Therefore, if any [Arab] state request said, Egypt will provide it.

Asked if this treaty applies to Lebanon, Ghali said: It applies to all states that signed the agreement [as received]. However, a state must ask for aid before it can be given. The most important thing is that we try to settle the dispute peacefully before resorting to other methods.

The minister of state emphasized that we must always try to settle the differences by diplomatic and peaceful methods. He said that the idea of peace must prevail in the world and that there can be no progress or prosperity if there is no peace.

Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt is ready to play the role of full partner in any future negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Asked about the fate of the Sanafir and Tiran Islands, he said the two islands are now within area "C" in the Sinai and under Egyptian sovereignty.

A Senegalese journalist asked Dr Ghali about the date of President Mubarak's visit to Senegal. He replied that the president indeed intends to visit Senegal and other fraternal African states, to which we pay special attention. However, the date of this visit has not yet been decided.

He said there is also an invitation from President Mubarak to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to visit Egypt, and we welcome him and hope to welcome him in Egypt soon.

VOICE OF LEBANON INTERVIEWS BUTRUS GHALI

NC262140 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali conducted by VOL correspondents at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in Cairo on 26 April 1982 -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] This is the Voice of Lebanon, Mr Minister. Egypt has regained the Sinai and has lost most of the Arabs. How it is possible to restore diplomatic relations with most of the Arabs who reject the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty?

[Answer] First, I disagree with this question. In my opinion, Egypt has not lost the Arab states. There are still close relations with a group of Arab states, and there are popular relations with all Arab states. There are more than 3 million Egyptian experts in all Arab states, working in the universities, hospitals, specialized institutions, and there are workers. We cannot say, or I do not agree with you that there is any rupture between Egypt and most of the Arab states.

Furthermore, in my opinion, Arab solidarity will overcome these differences sooner or later. I add to this an important argument which is that there are differences between some Arab states that are worse than the differences that currently exist between Egypt and some Arab states. What matters is Arab solidarity, and this Arab solidarity will be achieved sooner or later. The victory scored by Egyptian diplomacy in the restoration of the Sinai is a victory for the cause of peace and support for future victories that will be made for the rest of the Arab states, God willing.

[Question] The Sinai issue, with your permission. Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, will it advance the date of Arab solidarity, which Your Excellency talked about, or delay it, in your opinion?

[Answer] In my opinion, the withdrawal from the Sinai can be considered an end of a stage and will open the way for a new stage of Egyptian diplomatic activity to try to achieve a comprehensive, permanent and just settlement of the Middle East problem.

[Question] It has been said in more than one respect, and to be more precise, many officials in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front have said that Lebanon is paying the price of the Camp David accords. What is your answer to this statement?

[Answer] The crisis in Lebanon began at least 4 years before the Camp David accords.

[Question] Is this the answer?

[Answer] This is a logical and precise answer.

[Question] Is there any relationship between the continuation of the crisis until now and this... [question interrupted by Ghali]

[Answer] I don't think so. I don't think the crisis has any connection with these agreements. The crisis, regrettably, is a manifestation of the differences that exist in Arab society.

[Question] What did the late President Anwar as-Sadat mean when he said: Take your hands off Lebanon?

[Answer] What we mean is that the differences in Lebanon must be settled inside Lebanon. Egypt's position on the Lebanese issue is support for the territorial integrity of Lebanon, the political independence of Lebanon and noninterference in Lebanese affairs.

[Question] Mr Minister, are the relations between Egypt and Israel special?

[Answer] The relations between Egypt and Israel are regular and normal relations, like the relations that exist between Egypt and 150 states in the world. We reject any special relations with Israel. This principle was registered in the peace agreements and in all the agreements signed between Egypt and Israel.

[Question] Mr Minister, there is apprehension regarding a possible Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. What are your expectations, and if such an invasion takes place, what position will the Egyptian Government adopt?

[Answer] Our hope is that self-restraint will be the main basis and that any dispute will be settled by peaceful means. If any aggression or intervention takes place, there should be more negotiations and contacts, whether within the framework of the United Nations or within the framework of the bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States or between Egypt and a group of friendly states, to seek a quick solution to these crises and a (?political) solution or a peaceful settlement to these crises.

[Question] Does Egypt still adhere to the joint Arab defense treaty?

[Answer] Egypt adheres to the joint defense treaty, which was signed in Cairo in 1950. Should any Arab state request assistance from Egypt, Egypt will provide the assistance in accordance with the principles of the joint defense treaty.

[Question] Mr Minister, if a limited or wide-scale war takes place between any Arab state and Israel, what position will Egypt adopt?

[Answer] This question has been asked 500 times in the past 5 years. The most imortant step is to try to settle the dispute by peaceful means before we resort to any other means. It is necessary to pay attention to a peaceful settlement and diplomatic action to settle these disputes that may take place in the future. Thank you.

SOME ARAB COUNTRIES EXEMPTED FROM ENTRY VISAS

NC232036 Cairo MENA in English 1930 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Apr (MENA) -- Egypt has decided to exempt nationals of some Arab countries from getting an entry visa.

Egyptian Consul General Dr Mustafa Fahmi Abd al-Hamid said today that the Egyptian Consulate here received a decision to this effect.

The decision covers the nationals of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Djibouti and Mauritania.

The decision will be put into force as of tomorrow.

EGYPTIAN PAPERS REAPPEAR IN SAUDI ARABIA

NC241640 Cairo MENA in English 1405 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Apr (MENA) -- Egyptian newspapers and magazines emerged anew today on Saudi markets in all towns and cities. The Egyptian magazines and newspapers were banned from entering Saudi Arabia for three years.

They disappeared after one hour from the markets.

KUNA REPORTS DETAILS OF SADDAM HUSAYN INTERVIEW

LD270828 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0746 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Apr (KUNA) -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today criticized the general Arab attitude toward the Iraqi-Iranian war. He attacked Syria for its decision to close the border with Iraq earlier this month and to stop pumping Iraqi oil through the pipeline which passes through its territory to the Banyas and Tripoli refineries on the Mediterranean. These remarks were made by the Iraqi president recently at a meeting with the editors in chief of Kuwaiti papers and whose details are published today.

The Iraqi president renewed his determination to continue the war with Iran irrespective of the cost until the latter acknowledges Iraq's demands. He said that Syria's decision to shut off the pipeline is equivalent to sending 10 Syrian military divisions to fight on the side of the Iranian forces in the war which has been going on now for about 20 months.

The Iraqi president criticized the Arab silence concerning the Syrian decision but he stressed that this Syrian step will not affect Iraq. Regarding the Syrian measure, the Iraqi president said: Any economic damage cannot be separated from the results of the war. Instead of sending 10 military divisions to Iran they have sent 10 divisions to shut off the pipeline. He asked: Have you heard any Arab official say the Syrian attitude was bad and that the Syrians should not have shut off the pipeline? Have you heard? This is a violation of all the Arab League regulations. Earlier the Arab brothers used to say the Syrians denied that they are with Iran.

He stressed: If the Syrian rulers imagine that by closing the border they will make the Iraqis less determined, then they are mistaken. It is sufficient to say that the Iraqis, not officials but citizens, feel that the danger now makes it necessary for them to fight and to give everything they have.

Regarding the Arab attitude, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said the Arabs could have ended this war if they had stood with Iraq right from the very beginning and said to Iran: We are Arabs and you are Iranians. Right is on our side and you should respect the Arabs. He added: It would have been possible for the Iranian enemy to respect the Arabs and to respect Iraq and to conclude that the Iranians should live in their country and the Arabs in theirs, each leaving the other to choose freely. An attitude such as this -- a principled attitude -- calls on the Arabs to shoulder their weapons and confront the Iranian regime.

He warned that if the Iranians continue to fight, "we will fight even if our blood flows like rivers." He said Iraq has no worries except the concern for the blood shed by the Iraqi martyrs. Iraqi President Husayn expressed doubt whether Washington and Moscow wish to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, but he said: If they want to end the war they can influence the destiny of the war. He added: They -- the Soviet Union and the United States -- declare that they wish to end the war but words are one thing and real intentions are something else. Do they really wish to stop the war? I cannot categorically answer that.

He said Iraq will study joining the GCC any time that the six member countries of the council feel that the presence of Iraq among them will bolster their strength. But the Iraqi president said that Iraq has not so far asked to join the council, which consists of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman.

Regarding Iraq's attitude toward the council he said: We support and back everything that contributes to strengthening our Gulf brothers and that enables them to exercise their sovereignty as free people in their own countries free from any foreign political pressure irrespective of its kind or source. Any time they feel that Iraq's presence among them strengthens them, we will study the matter of joining them. So far we have not asked to be part of the council nor have they asked us to be.

IRAN DEMANDS WAR REPARATIONS PRIOR TO TALKS

NC241609 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (AFP) -- Iran has demanded 50,000 million dollars from Iraq as payment for war damages, the Kuwaiti weekly AL-MAJALIS reported today citing sources close to the nonaligned good offices mission. The mission shuttled between Tehran and Baghdad from April 10-15, attempting to settle the Iraq-Iran war which began in September 1980. The sources said Iran felt Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should put up the reparations money before peace negotiations began.

As for the return of prisoners, Iran wanted civilians to be swapped before military personnel and for the return of soldiers to be on a one-to-one basis, one Iraqi soldier for each Iranian, the weekly reported. Iraq wanted all prisoners returned to their countries and for this to take place during a two-month cease-fire, during which Tehran and Baghdad would negotiate directly with each other. Iraq had agreed to withdraw its troops from Iran during the cease-fire but had stipulated that Iran sign a good-neighbor treaty, the sources said. But Iran refused to sign such a treaty while Saddam Husayn was head of state in Iraq, AL-MAJALIS reported.

OIL MINISTER REFUTES SYRIAN OIL REVENUE CLAIMS

JN252009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) -- Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, has refuted statements by the Syrian oil and economy ministers in which they claim that Syria was receiving $20 million in annual revenues in return for the passage of Iraqi oil across its territory. He described these statements as full of lies and fallacies.

In a statement to INA this evening, the oil minister said the agreement signed with Syria regarding the flow of Iraqi oil stipulates that the minimum Syria should receive as annual revenue must not be less than $37 million. He explained that this rate is fixed irrespective of circumstances. In other words, Syria used to receive $37 million whether oil is pumped or not. He added that even if the export of Iraqi oil were suspended for compelling reasons, Iraq used to pay the minimum rate of $37 million.

The oil minister pointed out that the Syrian Government did not allow Iraq to export more than 70 percent of the pipeline capacity. In accordance with the agreement, this rate used to amount to well over $130 million. Had the Syrian Government allowed Iraqi oil to flow at full capacity, namely 1.4 million barrels daily, Syria's revenues would have reached $180 million annually.

The oil minister disclosed that Iraq paid the cost of the plant for increasing export capacity from 1.1 million barrels daily to 1.4 million barrels as a loan since 1972, adding that so far the Syrian Government has not repaid the loan.

He said the Syrian oil minister is well aware of the obstacles and impediments to which his government resorted to reduce Iraqi exports in an attempt to halt pan-Arab development plans in Iraq and to obstruct Iraq's aid to fraternal countries and Third World countries.

He said the Syrian oil minister knows better than anyone else the last extortionist measure his government adopted against wounded Lebanon, which is in dire need of every kind of aid. He added that in the agreement on the flow of Iraqi oil via Syria to the port of Tripoli, the Syrian Government insisted that Lebanon's revenues must not exceed 8.8 percent and that the remaining 91.2 percent should go to Syria. This, of course, contravenes the old agreement, and even when the pipeline was owned by the IPC, under which Lebanon used to get 36.8 percent of the revenues.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATIONS LEAVE ON ARAB TOUR

JN261046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA) -- Iraqi National Assembly delegations left for some Arab countries today carrying messages from National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad to the heads of Arab parliaments and councils as well as to the Palestine National Council and the Arab Parliamentary Union's council. These messages call for holding an emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union to discuss the Syrian regime's closure of the border with Iraq, suspension of the flow of Iraqi oil through Syria and support for the Iranian regime in its aggressive war against Iraq.

The delegation will visit Jordan, Kuwait, the UAE, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Djibouti, Somalia and the YAR. A National Assembly delegation arrived in Khartoum yesterday and held contacts with the Sudanese People's Assembly, which supported the convocation of an emergency meeting.

PRESS URGES SUSPENSION OF AID TO SYRIAN REGIME

JN251014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) -- The newspaper AL-'IRAQ urges Arab countries to suspend all financial aid to Syria. The paper says: The pan-Arab commitment requires the imposition of sanctions against Syria including a boycott. In an article today, the paper stresses that Arab funds are not being invested in accordance with the Baghdad summit but are being squandered on conspiracies, sabotage and aggression against Iraq and assisting the Persian enemy. The paper adds: Hafiz al-Asad's regime became a principal party in the Zionist-Persian alliance when it entered into a strategic alliance with the Persian enemy against Arab interests, rights and sovereignty and this action constitutes selling oneself at a low price to a foreigner at the expense of the Arab nation's rights and future.

AL-'ARAB says: The Syrian regime's conduct constitutes a dangerous precedent in Arab relations. This regime has overtly stood against all that Arab solidarity and Arab brotherhood require and has stabbed its Arab brother and supported the foreigner. The paper adds: The Syrian regime joined the Persian enemy's ranks against Iraq, encouraged it, gave it every assistance to continue its aggressive war against Iraq and played a suspect role in hindering peace efforts to stop the war and resolve the conflict peacefully.

The paper indicates that the Syrian regime has violated the joint defense treaty and the Arab League Charter by its stand against Iraq. Pursuing its course of evil and sin, the Syrian regime closed the border and banned the flow of Iraqi oil through the pipeline that passes through Syrian territory. All these measures are against an Arab League member. The paper concludes by stressing that pan-Arab interests require the isolation of Hafiz al-Asad's regime and the suspension of all aid and all forms of support to it. This is just and logical punishment for anyone who stabs the Arabs in the back and allies himself with the Arab nation's enemies.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 686

JN231639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi forces inflicted grave losses on the Iranian enemy forces during the past 24 hours, the known part of which amount to 44 killed and 1 armored personnel carrier, 9 vehicles, 1 stockpile of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed. This was announced by Communique No 686 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command. The communique put our losses at nine martyrs in all sectors and three vehicles and two excavators damaged. Following is the text of Communique No 686 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave sons and armed forces continued their activities in the operations theater, thus confirming their ceaseless sacrifice and great faith in victory over the forces of the grudge-bearing Khomeyni clique. The outcome of these activities is as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy units and concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, killing 24 and destroying 1 observation post.
2. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in the Abadan area, killing 13 and destroying 1 armored personnel carrier, 7 vehicles and 1 stockpile of hardware.
3. Seven were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
4. One vehicle was destroyed in the area opposite Panjwin.
5. One vehicle was destroyed in the Shush area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 44 killled and 1 armored personnel carrier, 9 vehicles, 1 stockpile of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed.

6. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: Three vehicles and two excavators damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 April 1982

Communique No 687

JN241619 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi forces captured one Iranian vehicle loaded with hardware, killed four Iranians and destroyed one stockpile of hardware. This was stated by the military communique of the Armed Forces General Command today which added that the military operations took place in the Abadan and Ahvaz areas. It put our losses at three martyrs. Following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 687 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors. Following are the results for yesterday evening and today:

1. One of our forward units sighted an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Abadan area. Our forces pounded it, killing four and destroying one stockpile of hardware.
2. One intact vehicle loaded with hardware was captured in the Ahvaz area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to four killed, one stockpile of hardware destroyed and one vehicle loaded with hardware captured.

3. Our sacrifices: Three martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 April 1982

Communique No 688

JN251704 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi forces inflicted losses on the Iranian enemy troops during the past 24 hours, the known losses of which amount to 58 killed and 7 vehicles, 7 stockpiles of hardware, 1 observation post and 1 radar site destroyed. This was announced in Communique No 688 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command. The communique put our losses at 11 martyrs in all sectors and 1 mortar and 1 vehicle damaged. The following is the text of Communique No 688 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Armed with a strong and brave army and a unique leader, victorious Iraq continued its just war against the Persian aggression, designs and arrogance as a result of which the evil Khomeyni clique is reaping ruin, disgrace, defeat and humiliation. The following is the outcome of the activities in the operational theater last night and today:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy units and concentrations in the Abadan area, killing 19 and destroying 6 vehicles, 1 of which was carrying personnel and the others which were laden with hardware; 7 stockpiles of hardware and 1 radar site were destroyed.
2. Our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, killing 12 and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 observation post.
3. Fifteen were killed in the Dezful area.
4. Seven were killed in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin.
5. Two were killed in the Nowsud area.
6. Two were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
7. One was killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 58 killed and 7 vehicles, 1 of which was carrying personnel and the others which were laden with hardware; 7 stockpiles of hardware; 1 observation post and 1 radar site destroyed.

8. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: One mortar and one vehicle damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 April 1982

KING HUSAYN OPENS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL SESSION

JN271207 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0918 GMT 27 Apr 82

[King Husayn speech inaugurating the third National Consultative Council in Amman on 27 April 1982 -- live]

[Text] With an overwhelming feeling of joy, pride and confidence, and with God's blessings and help, I inaugurate the third National Consultative Council, which represents a new phase in our democratic experiment and ever-confident and forward moving march. I am pleased to see this group of the sons of our homeland receive the flag of Arab Jordan from the previous council with full confidence in the future and strong faith in our country's mission -- the mission of the great Arab revolution.

If, in this short period of time, the National Consultative Council has become the object of national interest from one end of the country to the other, it is because this council reflects the great hopes pinned on it, the enormous trust it assumes and the sound democratic course it strongly upholds -- the course through which the citizen has acquired a sense of participation in building, giving, free expression and responsible dialogue. Your council also symbolizes the fact that the sons of the homeland are united on the platform of duty and work and are equal in their love for their homeland, their affiliation to their nation and their faith in their mission, enveloped by the flag of national unity; the flag of maturity, freedom and the honor of our youthful future generations, which have always upheld the values of right, sacrifice and dignity.

Our main concern, as a single Jordanian family, will always be to pool all manpower and resources and to utilize every opinion and mind in serving the homeland, protecting its territory, raising its flag and increasing its prestige, until, God willing, it becomes strong and mighty and is in a position to play its pan-Arab role in defending the issues of the nation, especially the Palestine question, which has always been the symbol of justice, sacrifice and devotion and the yardstick of sincerity, resoluteness and adherence to pan-Arab responsibility and joint Arab action.

Your country will continue to work hard, with all hope and faith, for the achievement of a unified pan-Arab stand, which will embody the solidarity of the Arabs and will guarantee their intrinsic power, free will, the ability to face enemy plans and to insist on the restoration of Arab rights and the liberation of the holy places and every inch of our occupied Arab territory. We will continue to work to attain these goals and objectives despite all hardships and conflicts plaguing Arab action and obstructing the way of the sincere and devout Arabs.

Honorable brothers, in my speech to the previous council I warned against the divisive currents sweeping our Arab world. Today, 2 years later, we find that the evil results of these currents have become aggravated. Our enemy, which is occupying the whole of Palestine and other parts of our dear Arab territory, is exploiting this seditious atmosphere to proceed firmly with the implementation of its plans and to intensify its repressive measures and practices in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan.

Every passing day provides fresh proof of the credibility of Jordanian policy and the importance of the Jordanian stand in facing the Zionist challenge and what is now taking place in the occupied territory, at a serious juncture in the history of the Palestine question, where the Zionist occupation authorities are in a race with time and events to create a status quo and surprise Arabs, Muslims and the entire world by annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after annexing the Golan Heights.

The theatrics of the village leagues is only a new chapter in this tragedy Israel is exploiting to give false legality to its aggression and occupation, break the international isolation threatening its entity, sidestep the UN resolutions and obstruct any international effort based on these resolutions. This is happening with all the inherent pain and humiliation while the Arab nation's ranks are being disrupted by differences that embarrass friends and encourage the enemy to persist in its intransigence and humiliation of this nation.

The Jordanian stand on the village leagues is an expression of our real concern for the unity of our kinfolk in the occupied West Bank, our support for their steadfastness and our rejection of any cause for differences or discrimination among them. Under occupation they are all alike in their patriotism, enthusiasm and pride. There is no difference among the people in the cities, villages and rural areas; among merchants, farmers and workers; or among students, employees, men and women. They are all eager to obtain their freedom, sacrifice for their holy places, safeguard the sanctity of their homes and land and adhere to both their rights in their occupied homeland and their national and pan-Arab affiliation.

Brother members of the esteemed council, the Zionist challenge and occupation facing the Arab nation on the western part of Arab Asia and the Iranian challenge and aggression facing it on the eastern flank render this stage extremely critical and serious. Confronting this stage requires tremendous, unusual efforts that must first of all be based on solidarity and unity of Arab ranks. We have always abided by this and this is what we are calling for today very sincerely, seriously and faithfully. The situation facing us no longer tolerates procrastination or delay, because the nation is facing the most serious challenge and the worst destiny.

Honorable brothers, During the previous council's session the Iraqi-Iranian war broke out. It was an inevitable result of the Iranian regime's expansionist trend demonstrated in its aggressive practices against Iraq and the Arabs. We were dutybound to rise in support of Iraq out of loyalty to our pan-Arab principles, commitment to Arab charters, embodiment of the meanings of Arab honor to which we cling and support for the noble Arab values to which we adhere in dealing with brothers without favor, hesitation, treason or treachery. As you know, we have always supported the Islamic and international efforts to stop this war and reach a just settlement that gives everyone his rights and establishes a new beginning of honorable relations based on good neighborliness, respect and equality between Iraq and the Arab states in the Gulf on the one hand and Iran on the other.

As part of our clear stand in support of Iraq, our Jordanian people responded to the call of duty and volunteered in the Jordanian Al-Yarmuk Forces, whose valiant units are today in one trench with their fraternal Iraqi Army and people, defending the rights of Iraq and the Arabs and sacrificing blood and souls for Arab dignity and rights. While aware of the Iranian aggression against the Arab region, we are pained to see some Arabs antagonize their nation by standing by Iran's side backing it with funds and weapons undeterred by ethics and unafraid of the punishment of history. This is not strange because such Arabs side with the adversary and disavow all the noble meanings embodied in the history of the nation -- meanings which created this nation's glories and enabled it to achieve victory and defeat the invaders.

Honorable brothers, what is happening these days in the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the birthplace of Christ, may peace be upon Him, in Jerusalem, the city of peace, and in the occupied Arab territory is an all-out national revolution in which the defenseless Palestinian Arab people -- old men, women, children, students, youths and men -- are confronting the Israeli occupation and its weapons, forces and inhuman practices, which conflict with all norms, laws and religions. What the whole world, with its nations and organizations, is witnessing today is legitimate action by the Palestinian people in defense of their homeland, holy places, human rights and dignity.

This struggle will continue as long as the occupation exists. This is a pure, objective and very simple and clear fact that applies to all occupations. In Palestine, the struggle has been going on since the turn of this century; since the Palestinian people were afflicted by Zionist invasion. The affliction became more severe following the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. The same situation has been experienced by every land that has been afflicted by occupation and colonialism and suffered from injustice and aggression; in Africa, Asia, Europe and the whole world. The struggle in Palestine will continue until the removal of Israeli occupation, the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights and sovereignty over their land, including their right to self-determination on their national soil. Any interpretation contrary to the logic of things and history and any other justification for what is taking place in the occupied territory is null and void. It is God's will that justice triumph over falsehood. There is no alternative to God's will.

To you steadfast brothers and kinfolk in the occupied territory, in the land of the prophet's night journey and ascension and Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem; in Nabulus, in Bethlehem, in Hebron and in every village, tent and home in the occupied Arab territory, we extend to you our warmest greetings [applause] and bless your legitimate steadfastness and jihad. You are the symbol of resoluteness to carry out the pledge; the pledge of your religion, country, nation and the whole of mankind. We support you. You are also supported by every human being who believes in right, justice and peace in this world.

Honorable brothers, it pleases me to extend from this place on behalf of Jordan our sincerest congratulations to Arab Egypt -- people, army and president -- for raising its noble Arab flag over all of its liberated territory in the Sinai. Arab Egypt has had a special role and place and honorable stand in the march of the Arab nation and in the service of the successive Arab generations throughout history. Egypt has also written brilliant and honorable pages in the field of sacrifice in defense of the nation, its rights and hopes. One of our most cherished aspirations, we the Arabs in the great homeland, including Jordan, is to see the Arab nation, including Egypt and all noble Arab countries, resume its unified march for the well-being of everyone, carry the trust and continue the mission, in loyalty to the blood of the martyrs and in support of justice until all Arab territory, including its gem, Jerusalem, returns to the Arabs. That precious Arab territory was occupied in the battle that was imposed on our nation. We fought alongside fraternal Egypt in the June 1967 war out of faith in the common destiny, out of fulfillment of our duty in the face of the most serious challenges and in adherence to the charter of the Arab League, the collective defense pact and sacred principle which says that if any part of Arab territory is subjected to aggression, it is the duty of all sons of the great Arab homeland to face and repulse this aggression. Peace will not be achieved in this part of the world until the people regain their rights and the occupied Palestinian territory returns to its owners and its people are able, God willing, to exercise their right to determine their own destiny on their national soil and establish their independent state out of their own free will and independent wish.

Israel's denial of or encroachment on the Palestinian people's exercise of this right means that Israel is blowing up the principle of peace as an objective. By doing so it is also blowing up the legal and international justification and reason for its existence which came according to the UN partition resolution in 1947.

Honorable brothers, the previous council has made a notable and commendable contribution to the evaluation of the results of the first 5-year plan. It has also responsibly participated in determining the dimensions of the second 5-year development plan and in highlighting its horizons, objectives and the living hopes pinned on it by the citizens in responding to their needs and drawing up the duties and burdens they have to perform and shoulder.

It behooves us, citizens and officials, to focus our efforts on achieving the objectives of the social and economic development plan that aims at building the homeland and at ensuring its strength and food security, particularly in the field of agriculture and animal wealth. We must make strenuous efforts to prepare the citizen so he is in top form and working at the highest level of efficiency, experience, training and performance. We must make a survey of manpower so that every individual is placed in his proper position as far as participating, building and offering. We must distribute development products throughout the homeland and among the citizens in the countryside, nomads, villages and cities.

Honorable brothers, we are concerned with asserting that the state's first and foremost duty is to deepen the faith of citizens and institutions in the spirit of justice and the supremacy of law and regulations in order to safeguard life and money, preserve the sublime ethics, sanctities and right of the public and protect the nature and heritage of the homeland and the resources of its wealth. We must exert further efforts and concern for the administrative organ in order to entrench the values of integrity and efficiency among its ranks in performing the trust and duty and in serving the society.

Brothers, the tasks waiting for you are important and noble. We are confident that your council, which will today take over the trust from the former council, is capable, with God's help, of continuing the march of good, progress and building and of developing and consolidating the role of the youth toward a better form. It really is a big task entrusted to you because it is the right of our sons and coming generations to protect the immortality of their heritage, preserve the identity of the nation to which we belong, to bring them up in accordance with the noble Arab values which were protected by their forefathers, to bring them up imbued with love toward their homeland and nation so that they will be loyal citizens and honorable Arabs proud with their homeland and nation.

The former council's progress along the road of joint responsibility, building and modernization was a clear-cut embodiment of what could be achieved by joint cooperation between the government and the people. We are always eager to prepare the atmosphere for this cooperation and for consolidating it as a firm and developed tradition and a pledge to be shouldered by every citizen and official.

And say: Work righteousness soon will God observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

May God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

MUSLIM LEADER ASSASSINATED IN BEIRUT 26 APRIL

NC262118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] Security sources this evening said armed persons riding in an unidentified car fired at Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf, chairman of Islamic associations and establishments and president of the Islamic Center near 'A'Ishah Bakkar's Mosque [in Beirut] at 1845. He was killed instantly.

VOL on General Reaction

NC271430 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Islamic establishments and organizations have decided to call a general strike tomorrow in denunciation of the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf.

Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid today chaired a meeting attended by Druze community leader Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, Rashid as-Sulh, Salim al-Huss and a number of Islamic religious and political figures.

Discussions during the meeting only dealt with the steps and measures that must be taken on state and Islamic levels to curb the wave of attacks and sabotage.

Streets in the 'A'Ishah Bakkar area have been cut off since this morning and stores and schools have been closed in condemnation of the crime.

At 1100, a bomb was hurled at the masses that had gathered near the house of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf in 'A'Ishah Bakkar, shouting: Beirut is not Hamah.

The independent Nasirites Movement -- the Murabitun -- held a meeting during which it discussed the assassination of Shaykh 'Assaf and decided to take measures regarding this issue, including a call for closing stores and establishments and stopping work in Beirut tomorrow on the occasion of the funeral of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf.

While investigations are continuing to determine the perpetrators of the assassination and the motives behind it, Shaykh 'Assaf's opposition to establishing local councils in western Beirut has been considered as the primary reason for his assassination. About 1 month ago, Shaykh 'Assaf had adopted a frank stand on the plan for the establishment of local councils. He had then made a statement to the Voice of Lebanon radio in this connection in which he said:

[Begin recording] We believe local councils would take the place of the authorities. We support the legitimate authorities. We want everybody to reject this initiative, because it would impede the peace process in this country and would be taken as a pretext for partition in the future.

[Question] But what are the solutions, in the absence of the security authorities which are capable of imposing security?

[Answer] Actually, the security authorities are not absent but there are efforts to incapacitate and obstruct the state in this regard. Therefore, if we have a true secular system with regard to this subject, we must enable the legitimate authorities to be consolidated, just as was done in Tripoli.

[Question] Does this mean you are calling for the security forces to control the western areas in particular?

[Answer] Certainly. We demand this and strongly so. [end recording]

Junblatt, Al-Wazzan Statements

NC272158 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] At 1930 today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met in his house with Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Political Council of the Nationalist Movement, and Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, who extended condolences to Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the martyrdom of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf. The meeting was also an occasion to discuss the security and political situation in Lebanon. The meeting lasted until 2045.

After the meeting, Junblatt made the following statement: I called on the prime minister to convey my condolences on the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf. I had earlier visited the Islamic center to convey my condolences to the family of Shaykh 'Assaf and those concerned.

He added: Perhaps words of denunciation are weak today. However, as a national movement we cannot but denounce the principle of political assassination, even if we disagree with some parties. I think that the purpose of this incident was to cause further Islamic and national division.

Junblatt called on everyone to maintain utmost calm so we will not fall into this trap.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: Junblatt has expressed the nature of this visit. We all denounce this criminal incident through which the perpetrators sought to cause strife and silence the Islamic voice, which has always been a loud national voice. Muslims in this country have been and will continue to be the defenders of patriotism and all national causes.

He added: Assassination is not the way to silence a voice, particularly if it was expressing the conscience of a nation or the conscience of a large group, as was the case with this martyr. On this basis, we will proceed in our steps to strengthen the unity of ranks around the principles in which we believe and for which we work, whether inside or outside the government, because, in all circumstances, particularly in the fateful circumstances in which we live, we only have one unchanging thought on the basis of which and for which we work.

He continued: This is an opportunity to draw the attention of the Lebanese -- who possess such a high level of consciousness that it makes us confident that they will respond -- to the need to be alert and careful after this stage in which we have no idea what the plotters are harboring for Lebanon and for the whole area. There is nothing better than unity of ranks and positions as a weapon with which to defend ourselves, safeguard the homeland and prevent danger to all our causes.

Al-As'ad, Iddih Comment

NC271813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad has commented on the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf by saying that the murder of His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf is a grave loss for the entire nation in view of the national and moral values he represented and because of his religious position. He added: In principle, this ugly criminal act falls within the conspiratorial scheme which is aimed at the existence of Lebanon through the fomentation of atmospheres of disturbances and sedition.

Information Minister Michel Iddih has also condemned this crime and lauded Shaykh 'Assaf's nationalism and his public and humanitarian services.

Ministers Denounce Killing

NC271740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Justice Minister Khatchik Babikian, Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah, Agriculture Minister Mustafa Darniqah, Minister of State for Environmental and Social Security Affairs Cesar Nasr, Public Health Minister Nazih al-Bizri, and Industry and Oil Minister Muhammad Yusuf Baydun have denounced the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf and regard it as serving no one but the enemies of Lebanon. They have called on citizens to beware of the plots being prepared for Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Comment

NC271814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [Phalangist Party leader] has commented on the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf, saying: Those who carry out such criminal actions will not willingly stop at any limit. We regret to say that the borrowed forces that came to Lebanon to control security and prevent violations stand unconcerned or look on the acts of assassination, murder and abduction as if none of this concerns them or comes under their responsibility. They do everything except maintain security and safeguard the people.

Former President Camille Sham'un has considered the assassination of Shaykh 'Assaf as a link in the bloody chain that aims at terrorizing all people of free conscience and silencing the daring voices that have been able to frustrate the suspect plans to divide and fragment this country.

Muslim Leaders Call Strike

NC271757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The steps to be taken by Muslims following yesterday's assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf were defined at a meeting held today at the mufti's office. His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic, chaired two meetings this morning to discuss the assassination of Shaykh 'Assaf.

The first meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan; former prime ministers; deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, His Eminence Shaykh Mahdi Shams ad-Din; the Ja'farite grand mufti, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan; leader of the Druze community, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra; and the director general of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, Shaykh Mahmud Farhat.

The second meeting was confined to the ulema.

The assassination has aroused the wrath of Muslims and was the subject of denunciation on all official, political and spiritual levels. A statement was issued following this meeting. The following is the text of the statement:

The Muslims in Lebanon met at the mufti's office. They were represented by their religious, national and political leaders, led by their eminences the leaders of the three Islamic creeds, the prime minister, former prime ministers, ulema, Muslim ministers and deputies and representatives of Islamic organizations and societies. They were horrified by the abominable crime of assassination whose victim was His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf -- a crime which constitutes a violation of limits, sanctities and immunities. After deliberating upon the circumstances and background of the criminal incident, which has aroused comprehensive Islamic and Lebanese wrath, the conferees announce the following:

1. They denounce and condemn the abominable crime, the victim of which was a venerable religious 'alim, who had an effective national role and occupied a prominent religious position. They express the wrath of the Lebanese public and their rejection of these evil actions, which are against all the Islamic and humanitarian values and ethics and which contradict the principle of public freedoms. They believe this crime was not directed against the martyr inasmuch as what he symbolized in his capacity, position and stands.

2. They urge responsible authorities on all levels to give this momentous event and its dimensions the attention it deserves, expedite the investigation to disclose the criminals and inflict the heaviest deterrent penalties against them and the quarters backing them.

3. They urge all citizens to completely stop their work on Wednesday, 4 Rajab 1402 Hegira, corresponding to 28 April 1982, in a disciplinary and peaceful way as an expression of their denunciation of the crime and participation in the funeral.

4. They stress that this crime should serve as an incentive to manifest a comprehensive Islamic and Lebanese stand to avert all dangers threatening the homeland at this stage -- dangers against the Islamic presence and the destiny of Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil Joins Strike Call

NC271958 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Following a meeting with [former] President Camille Sham'un and [Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, commander of the Lebanese Forces Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil decided this evening to join the general strike tomorrow in solidarity with the call of Islamic leaders, thus giving this strike a comprehensive national dimension.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jamayyil made the following statement: Following the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf and after my meeting with President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, and as a gesture of solidarity with the call of Islamic spirituals and political leaders who have called for a general strike, it has been decided to participate in this general strike. We call on all citizens in our areas to respond to this call, because we believe this crime affects not only Muslims but all Lebanese and all spiritual and human values.

Islamic Council Lauds 'Assaf

NC271732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Islamic Council today held an emergency session to discuss the assassination of one of its members -- Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf. The council lauded Shaykh 'Assaf's national and humanitarian stands and called for uncovering those who perpetrated the crime and punishing them severly. It also called for uniting the Islamic ranks, strengthening their capabilities and reinforcing their positions. The council called on all the Islamic establishments and associations to abide by the call issued by the mufti's office [presumably the call for a strike tomorrow] and to continue work to achieve the salvation of Lebanon, the safety of its land and the unity of its people.

SOLDATOV MEETS WITH BUTRUS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC271250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today met with Soviet ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov at the request of the ambassador.

After the meeting, Ambassador Soldatov stated: The main purpose of today's meeting was to convey the Soviet Government's stand on and assessment and interpretation of recent developments in the Sinai. We also assessed the situation in and around Lebanon and the Middle East in general.

Regarding the Sinai, Ambassador Soldatov said: We consider the stationing of the multinational forces in the Sinai a very serious and negative matter that conflicts with the interests of Middle East peoples as well as with the issue of conciliation [sulh]. I believe the agreement on the withdrawal from the Sinai has introduced U.S. forces into the area for the first time.

The Soviet ambassador added: We believe the most negative result of the Camp David agreements is the U.S. attempt to resolve Middle East problems through military force. We believe the Arab peoples will struggle against the Camp David line and will not allow imperialist pressures to achieve their aims.

Replying to a question, the Soviet ambassador called for the need to reject the stationing of the multinational force. He said that states must undertake to defend their borders.

As whether the Israeli withdrawal will have a negative or positive effect on Lebanon, the Soviet ambassador said Camp David in general, as a concept and practice, reflects negatively on every Arab country, including Lebanon.

AL-AS'AD MEETS 'ARAFAT ON ELECTIONS, S. LEBANON

NC272035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] At 1215 today, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by his political adviser, Hani al-Hasan. Following the meeting, which lasted until 1315, 'Arafat declined to make any statement.

Speaker al-As'ad spoke about his meeting with 'Arafat. Answering a question, he said: The discussions dealt with the effective role the Palestinian resistance could perform at this particular stage to create an appropriate climate for holding the presidential election in a normal way -- first of all on the security level and, consequently, on the psychological and political levels.

After praising the Syrian role in preserving security, Speaker al-As'ad said: One president must be elected for the one republic. If we cannot create this climate then this would mean, on the national level, that the conspiratorial plan against Lebanon has succeeded. On the pan-Arab level, it would mean that a start has been made in impelementing the conspiratorial plan against the Arab cause and the liquidation of the entity of Lebanon is the beginning of the division of the whole Arab area on a sectarian and racist basis.

Al-As'ad added: We in the Chamber of Deputies seek, with all our resources, to impose the national will of the people in Lebanon. Within the limits of these modest resources we insist on the need to resist every plot which seeks to divide Lebanon and liquidate it. I do not want to say in this regard that there are big or small voters on the basis that each country can be affected by several external and internals trends. [sentence as heard] Several parties in the Lebanese arena have an interest in the presidential elections, but the voter is the deputy and he is the one who determines the destiny.

Speaker al-As'ad added: The elector is the voter -- that is to say, that he is the deputy who will cast his vote. [sentence as heard] I hope the Chamber of Deputies is currently up to this responsibility and this historical mission which is above all small, personal and factional considerations.

Regarding the situation in the south, Al-As'ad said: During my meeting with 'Arafat today I stressed our stand of not giving Israel any opportunity or justification. I can say that there was a full response with regard to the first issue and to this issue in particular. It was not an emotional response in as much as it was an objective response based on national conviction and enthusiasm for the need to adopt the stand which would realize the required strategy.

VOP: 'ARAFAT CONTACTS LEBANESE LEADERS

JN221747 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee and the General Secretariat of the factions of the Palestinian revolution held an extraordinary meeting yesterday in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat to discuss Israeli aggression.

Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] met yesterday evening with members of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the council of the popular forces.

Yasir 'Arafat has also contacted Nabih Barri, the president of the Command Council of Amal movement, notifying him of his appreciation of the communiques issued by Amal and Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din, deputy president of the Higher Islamic Shi'a Council. The communiques stressed the unity between the Palestinian revolution, Amal and the Lebanese masses, especially in south Lebanon.

'Arafat also contacted Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to thank him for helping coordinate positions on the local and international level in the face of the latest Israeli aggression.

Meets Islamic Group

JN261842 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met today with the brother members of the Islamic grouping and the front responsible for the defense of southern Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Fatah Central Committee members Brothers Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil] and Hani al-Hasan.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current situation in the region in light of the concentrations of Israeli forces, Zionist military threats and the barbaric air raid on several Lebanese areas. The meeting also dealt with the escalating uprising of our Palestinian masses against the occupation.

Meets Kurdish Group

JN271835 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon received a delegation of the Kurdish Democratic Grouping headed by Secretary General Munir 'Ali Khan. Brother Abu 'Ammar informed the delegation of the latest developments in the region in light of the Israeli military concentrations in the south. The Kurdish Democratic Grouping announced that it has placed all its capabilities at the disposal of the Palestinian revolution to confront the Zionist enemy.

VOP REPORTS ISRAELIS REPLACING HADDAD SOLDIERS

NC270608 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Lebanese news agency reports that the Zionist enemy has emplaced two missiles batteries in the Saff al-Hawa area. It adds the Zionist enemy is now replacing the men of the militias stationed in the villages of Dayr Mimas, Kafr Kila, Tall Kafr Kila, Tall 'Uwaydah and Al-'Udaysah with men of the Zionist army. The militiamen are being deployed in rear lines to man barricades on the roads of Kafr Kila and al-Qulay'ah-Marj 'Uyun.

INFORMATION CHIEF DENOUNCES AFP OFFICE BOMBING

NC241815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] An explosive charge went off at 1930 today at the entrance to the AFP office in the As-Sana'i area [in Beirut]. The explosion caused material damage. Information Minister Michel Iddih contacted AFP officials, expressing his denunciation and resentment over the explosion.

GOVERNMENT TO CONFRONT 'ANY ISRAELI AGGRESSION'

JN280909 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 28 Apr (SANA) -- Commenting on Israel's threats to strike at the Palestinians, a responsible Syrian source said here today that Syria will confront any Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and the Lebanese.

Regarding Menahem Begin's statements that Israel will destroy the Syrian missiles [in Lebanon], the responsible source stressed that the Syrian missiles will be fired at any Israeli aircraft within these missiles' range. The responsible source added that this is Syria's firm policy from which it will not deviate.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE ISSUES STATEMENT 27 APR

JN271803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] At the end of its meeting today, the Arab People's Conference Permanent Secretariat issued a statement stressing that the courageous upheaval of our people, who are living under the yoke of occupation, expresses their militant spirit, their rejection of all capitulatory solutions under discussion, their commitment to the liberation of the land and the confrontation of the occupation and their clinging to the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Permanent Secretariat stressed the need to offer all kinds of support to the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to enable it to fully shoulder its responsibilities of defending the Arab character of Lebanon, the unity of its people and territory and the return of democratic life to it. The Permanent Secretariat also stressed the need to strengthen the alliance between this movement and the Palestinian revolution and Syria, the trinity of steadfastness, along the confrontation front against the Zionist enemy. It also stressed the need to confront the schemes that aim at generalizing the Camp David accords in the Arab arena and the attempts to achieve reconciliation with the Egyptian regime. The Permanent Secretariat called for the return of democratic liberties in Egypt as a guarantee for the return of this beloved country to its natural and vanguard place in the Arab homeland.

The Permanent Secretariat also touched on the Iraqi-Iranian war, which has been raging for the past 20 months, and stressed its stand that this war deviates from the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and serves imperialism and Israel, thus greatly harming the Palestinian cause and the Arab struggle in general.

The Permanent Secretariat called for supporting the Iraqi national movement to enable it to play its role of saving Iraq from what it is suffering now, ending the war that is raging and setting up a national and democratic rule that will bring Iraq back to its position in the pan-Arab struggle against the imperialist and Zionist enemy.

The Permanent Secretariat emphasized the need for alertness and unification of the ranks of the Arab liberation movement in the face of the escalating imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught. The Permanent Secretariat also decided to call for an urgent meeting of the leaders of the political groupings, popular and national organizations and liberation movements in the Arab homeland to discuss the deteriorating Arab situation and how to deal with this dilemma.

The Permanent Secretariat's meeting issued a political report and several resolutions devoted to the development of action and the implementation of the militant tasks with which the Secretariat General of the Arab People's Conference is entrusted.

The second session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, which lasted 2 days, issued several organizational resolutions stating that the conferees had adopted the political report on the political situation on the Arab and international level. The meeting issued a final statement. The conferees decided to call for an urgent meeting of the leaders of the political and popular groupings and organizations early next month.

The Permanent Secretariat highly appraised the efforts that have been exerted to render the conference on the imperialist-Zionist cultural infiltration of the Arab nation a success and the important results ensuing from it. The Permanent Secretariat also called for supporting the special resolution on convening the symposium on Europe and recognizing the PLO. It entrusted the PLO to prepare a working paper on the seminar of Zionism as a racist phenomenon.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab People's Conference Permanent Secretariat studied the question of bolstering the fund of the popular Arab struggle and has decided to donate $100,000 to bolster our kinfolk, the upheaval of whom began more than 2 months ago in occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES CUBAN DELEGATION

JN241603 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 24 Apr (SANA) -- Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, has asserted that Syria and Cuba stand in a common trench against U.S. imperialism [words indistinct] peace-loving peoples and against racist Zionism and its agents.

During his meeting today with Rene Rodriguez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist party of Cuba and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples, and his delegation, Comrade Mashariqah stressed that Syria, supported by the Arab masses and the world forces of progress and freedom, will continue its march of struggle under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to regain their usurped rights. The meeting was attended by the Cuban ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions between the Syrian and the Cuban sides began here this afternoon. The discussions aim at signing an agreement to establish a Syrian-Cuban friendship society.

AL-BA'TH CALLS FOR STRIKING AT U.S. INTERESTS

JN261100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] The Egyptian regime yesterday celebrated the handing over of Sinai to the multinational force. Meanwhile, Husni Mubarak and Menahem Begin stressed their continuation of the normalization of relations and their commitment to the Camp David accords.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH SAYS: The coming stage is difficult and will determine the size and impact of pressures, aggressions and plots. Washington will continue to impose the capitulatory solution that is in accordance with Israeli strategy. This requires decisive confrontation by the Arab masses under the leadership of the Arab steadfastness forces to foil future steps in the hostile scheme. This confrontation should be mainly concentrated at striking at U.S. interests in the region, as the United States stresses daily that it is the Arabs' primary enemy.

BEGIN VIEWS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, OTHER ISSUES

TA271154 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 pp 6-10

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin interviewed by Yehuda Schiff and Uri Dan on 23 April in the Prime Minister's Office]

[Excerpt] Question: Do the messages from U.S. President Reagan and Egyptian President Mubarak include a reference to the issue of Judaea and Samaria? Does it strengthen your belief that we will not have to face any territorial or political concessions in those areas in the foreseeable future?

Answer: With all due respect and warmth I feel toward these two men, this is up to neither the U.S. President nor the Egyptian president; it is up to us.

I want to note that both messages from President Reagan and President Mubarak include a commitment to adhere to only one agreement: the autonomy agreement. The autonomy agreement is the best agreement ever signed by the State of Israel.

The situation today is different from that in 1948 or even 1967 because the enemy's weapons have changed. The terrorist organization currently has the following weapons supplied directly by the Soviet Union, Libya and Syria: missiles with a range of 21.6 km, 130-mm cannons with a range of 27 km and even [figure indistinct] with a range of 43 km. In other words, with the weapons at its disposal the terrorist organization could hit any settlement in an area where two-thirds of the civilian population are concentrated -- from Samaria to the Judaean hills. So I told both the Americans and the Egyptians: Can you conceive of the possibility that we would ever agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state which would endanger our very existence? They know exactly what our position is. Hence, the importance of the messages sent by the U.S. and Egyptian presidents in which they reiterated what we had been demanding: that there be only one agreement between us and that it be the agreement on the autonomy. We are ready to give full autonomy to our Arab neighbors in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; a wider autonomy than ever offered to any ethnic, national or religious entity in the Tirol, Belgium, Corsica or elsewhere. However, this is an autonomy, not a state; it is an autonomy and not a right to self-determination which means a Palestinian state as former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington revealed in our meeting. I asked him: Why do you conduct a propaganda campaign for a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza? After all, such a state would endanger our existence! He replied: We have never argued for a Palestinian state; we have always spoken about the right to self-determination. I then said: There is only one meaning to self-determination and that is a state; to which he replied: That is true.

Therefore, in that context, the two messages we received in the wake of a week of very strenuous political efforts were proper. They really enabled the correction of various distortions and, for our part -- as stated in the unanimous decision of the Cabinet -- we will fulfill our international commitments in the peace treaty, according to which we will evacuate the entire Sinai on 25 April and will stand at the international border of Eretz Yisra'el and Egypt.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, what were the reasons for demanding those commitments from the Americans and the Egyptians in the last few weeks?

Answer: There were violations of the peace treaty and the Camp David accord.

As far as we are concerned, the demilitarization of 150 km in the Sinai until the international border is a security arrangement of supreme importance because that is a desert area. One may take a photograph from the international border and see 150 km into the Sinai; not even one Egyptian soldier will be there, let alone tanks, a cannon or a plane. If, God forbid, one day somebody wanted to violate the peace treatw we would spot him and act at once! There were violations. Units which should not have been there, according to the military appendix of the peace treaty, were introduced into the demilitarized zone. We demanded that the units be taken out and they were taken out.

Secondly, the peace treaty was violated regarding the introduction of weapons and sabotage material into Israeli territory from Egyptian territory. Again, that is absolutely and explicitly forbidden according to paragraph 3 of the peace treaty.

The third factor was connected, I would say, to the political attitude. According to the peace treaty, hostile propaganda is forbidden; both sides made this commitment. Yet, the following incidents took place: Dr 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian representative to the UN Security Council, made a speech in the wake of the incidents a few weeks ago in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza in which he launched a very harsh attack against us. At that time, I replied to a letter from President Mubarak dated 21 March 1982. My reply was sent on 25 March. Among other things, I included in the letter a paragraph about the speech made by Dr 'Abd al-Majid and I pointed out to President Mubarak that it constituted a violation of the peace treaty, that it was hostile propaganda, and that Dr 'Abd al-Majid should not have made such a speech at the Security Council. [as published]

President Mubarak met our ambassador, Moshe Sason, who later reported to me on their talk. I am not allowed to quote President Mubarak but I can say that he had no misgivings about what I wrote to him -- and that is enough. A few days later Dr 'Abd al-Majid appeared at a conference of 80 nonaligned nations and made a speech in which he included some sort of plan. Incidentally, [Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs] Dr Ghali is a very learned man. He explained to me a certain word in Arabic which means "conduct" or lines of conduct rather than "plan." He emphasized that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had used that word. All right, I told him, let it be lines of conduct. I did not learn Arabic and I trust your understanding of the language. That does not change the fact that 11 points were raised which absolutely contradict the Camp David accords: Israel's retreat to the 4 June 1967 lines, to the defunct line which was at one time called the green line; the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; Israel's "right" to return to the borders of a tiny little country according to the partition plan or receive compensation instead [phrase as heard], applying Arab sovereignty to Jerusalem or, according to the translation given to the United States, at least part of Jerusalem. I told Dr Ghali and General 'Ali: These 11 points actually mean taking the road leading to the gradual annihilation of the State of Israel. Are you telling us that this is your plan on the eve of the decisive step we are about to make? Is that your way? The question then is why are you doing this? We can only assume that you trust the United States will see to our withdrawal and if we were to come to you with complaints after 25 or 26 April you would tell us: Why do you complain to us? After all, you were aware of what we said before but nevertheless you retreated to the international border and you withdrew from the Ra's Muhammad-al-'Arish line. So why do you come with complaints to us?

Well, I told our Egyptian friends: You are wrong! The United States cannot give us any orders. We are friends and allies with the United States but they cannot give us any orders. Incidentally, I explicitly repeated those same words to the Americans in the meeting with Mr Veliotes and U.S. Ambassador Lewis. Everybody knows that we are allies and friends but that no country gives any orders to the State of Israel.

Those are the reasons that led us to demand that the distortions should be rectified: Rectifying the violations in the "demilitarized zone" and the thinned-out zone as well as stopping arms smuggling and terrorist inflitrations into Israeli territory and settling the moral-political problem, which is the gist of the 11 points raised by Dr 'Abd al-Majid.

President Mubarak's 16 April letter did not include any correction of these distortions except for one point which I must mention. In that letter, President Mubarak promised to fight against arms smuggling into Israeli territory. Concerning the other two issues, however, his letter did not contain any correction. He did not even mention the word autonomy, he did not mention the words autonomy negotiations. That is why we demanded a clarification. There were negotiations and consequently I received another letter from President Mubarak on 20 April. That letter really includes a full correction. First of all, all the units were pulled out; the Egyptians undertook to fight with all the means at their disposal arms smuggling and terrorist penetrations into our territory. Of course, all this will be put to the test in the field -- these are the commitments we received. This letter explicitly states the autonomy is the only plan according to the Camp David accords and we will conduct negotiations only and solely on this plan until we reach an agreement. At this point, we were able to say that, for our part, we will fulfill our commitments -- and we wanted to fulfill them.

One should bear in mind that the signing of a peace treaty is an act of international importance and that such a signature should be honored; the terms of a treaty should be fulfilled. As far as we are concerned, it is Israel's word of honor and the fact that Israel's word is fulfilled has a special significance. Of course, this will hold true if the other party also fulfills its part. If it does not, he thus releases us from the duty to fulfill our part. When the other party did not fulfill its part, we told both the United States and Egypt in crystal clear and very carefully formulated words: We will have to contemplate the possibility of delaying the retreat of our forces. Please note that we did not say that we had decided to cancel the retreat of our forces. We did not say that we had decided to delay the withdrawal, we said that we would contemplate the possiblity of delaying the withdrawal for some time until the violations have been rectified. We told them that such a possbility, however, indeed exists.

We signed a peace treaty with our Egyptian neighbors and we want to fulfill it; we did not mean to use it as a whip. We planned on realizing our commitments and retreating to the international border -- that should have been implemented. However, when the other side violated the peace treaty and the Camp David accords on various vital points, we said: Either you rectify this or else we will contemplate the possibility of not retreating to the international border -- that is the only right way. We did not look for excuses not to fulfill our commitment; we searched for reasons to make it possible for us to fulfill our commitment and when these reasons were provided to us -- through the rectification of the violations -- we were able to fulfill our commitment. That is the reason why the Cabinet decision was made unanimously.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, from time to time there is tension in the north. Last week the air force carried out a deterrent strike, as the chief of staff called it. You brought the opposition in on your calculations regarding the north. Do you feel that the opposition behaved as could have been expected from it in such situations?

Answer: First I will reply to the main point. In July we obtained an agreement between the United States and ourselves. In contrast to the rumors prevalent, there was neither an agreement between us and the terrorist organization, nor were there any talks between the United States and representatives of the terrorist organization. We reached a certain agreement with Mr Philip Habib about what is called a cessation of hostile activities. And it is true that from July to this day, as I once promised, not even one Katyusha had fallen on Qiryat Shemona or Nahariyya. On the other hand, however, the terrorists have violated this agreement many times. By the way, in contradiction to our position and that of the United States, they have interpreted this agreement as being applicable only to southern Lebanon and the north of Eretz Yisra'el. This is not true. It is applicable to all the sectors and all the borders. The United States pointed that out twice, when terrorist squads infiltrated via the Jordan River, they had come from Lebanon via Syria and passed through Jordan to us, so they violated the agreement to cease hostile activities.

The terrorists do not accept the U.S. interpretation and they claim they are permitted to attack in other sectors. We do not want war; we want peace. We do not want bloodshed. We want calm. And therefore the truth is that we have behaved with great restraint. But, as I was able to say about 3 weeks ago to the U.S. ambassador, when the world press, and our press too, wrote in screaming headlines that war would soon break out and the Israeli Army would "invade" Lebanon as they phrased it -- and I would like you to write the word "invade" in quotation marks -- then I was able to say truthfully that the government had not made any decision to enter Lebanon, but, I added, you should note and also inform the secretary of state: The days have gone, and will never return, when Jewish blood is spilt and those spilling it are not punished.

It is clear that he was able to understand that we had indeed decided not to enter Lebanon, but we would not put up with attacks against us. In thd meantime, four people were killed in Israel. Ov er the last few months 17 people were killed and more than 250 wounded in Israel and abroad. When the agreement was made in July 1981, I informed Mr Philip Habib that we would also regard the killing of Jews abroad as a violation of the agreement. After a long period of restraint, we decided to deliver a blow to them, and we chose the three terrorist organizations bases with great care and we attacked them. A few days ago I had the occasion to warn again that if the terrorists again attack Jews we will deal them an even more serious blow than the one they received the day before yesterday.

Let us hope there will be no need for this. We have again repeated that we prefer calm, and if there is calm from the other side in Lebanon, there will also be calm from us.

Regarding the behavior of the opposition, there have been two periods. A few weeks ago some of its members, not the entire opposition, took a very strange position. It was as though they were conducting a sort of propaganda campaign -- according to which the government had decided to go to war -- and they were warning the public at home and abroad against this "plot," in quotation marks. First of all, there was no such decision, as I have already explained. Secondly, the very fact of that propaganda had to lead to political damage to Israel. That was inappropriate behavior. In contrast to this, after our air force action against the three terrorist bases, the opposition's attitude was very pleasant. As far as I know, my friends from the opposition, all of them on the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, supported that action, and opposition leader Mr Shim'on Peres said specifically that now was not the time to express opposition. I noted with great satisfaction this opposition position and I cannot but do other than hope that this is also how it will be in the future.

Question: What is your position on the establishment of a national unity government?

Answer: I have proposed, I am proposing and I will continue to propose the establishment of a national unity government. Why am I proposing this? There are two reasons: First, in my view, it should be established; and, second, it can be established. Why should it be established? It is true that we have solved very serious problems, but you never solve all the problems in life, and sometimes a solution creates a new problem. It may be assumed that in the future we will have serious problems and it will be good for us to stand together and overcome them. We will solve them, in the political and security and socio-economic fields. This government can work. It has worked and it has proved its ability, but a national unity government in such special times is certainly to be desired.

Why do I say it can be established? I would not have said this a year ago. Then, too, I wanted it, but the foundations were still lacking from the political viewpoint. A change occurred in that Mr Peres announced from the Knesset podium that the Alignment supported the autonomy plan. The terms were defined in political language as the "maximus" and "minimus" plans.

The maximus plan could not be established by the Alignment and the Likud in one government. The minimus plan -- yes. What does this mean? Since the Alignment also accepts the autonomy plan, as Mr Peres said, we can work together on the basis of this plan for between 5 years and another certain period of time which I cannot define for the time being, but is needed to conduct negotiations on the implementation of the autonomy with Egypt and the United States. These negotiations may continue for months or even for a year. It depends. Let us take the average -- 6 months. In other words, we have the possibility of working together for 5 years and 6 months; that is a long time. At the end of the transition period, I have no doubt that there will be a parting of the ways. The Alignment will propose, as Mr Abba Eban wrote recently, handing over a large section of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District to a "Jordanian Palestinian" -- in quotation marks -- state and we will completely reject this proposal. We will insist there be autonomy and that we have the right to Eretz Yisra'el. We have the right to Judaea and Samaria, there is no doubt about this. I said this to an Egyptian paper only yesterday. I said this to Mr Carter at our first meeting in 1977. It is written in the minutes. We emphasize this. Then there will be a parting of the ways, but in the meantime, we will go through more than 5 years together.

The previous national unity government went through more than 3 years and it did wonderful things. First of all, it made a decision about the 6-day war. One week before its establishment the government had been paralyzed; it was incapable of making a decision. The soldiers were tired of waiting. They said: either home or to battle. After a week a unanimous decision was made: to conduct a defensive war. This was correct from the military aspect as the initiative was ours. From the moral aspect it was the supreme use of the right to national defense. Afterward, we liberated Jerusalem. We enacted a law which unified Jerusalem into one city. We reached the Jordan. We went to the Golan Heights. After all, as a national unity government we did great things in the history of Israel during that 3 years. Based on this experience, why is it impossible to say that if we roughly double the time of existence of a national unity government, we will also do great things? That is the basis. Nobody has to deny his principles. Everybody will continue to believe in his positions. But, if both the Alignment and the Likud agree to support the autonomy plan, on this basis we can sit in one government, if there is good will, of course, for a relatively long time.

Question: What is preventing the "good will"?

Answer: Do you have to ask me? I assume, as far as I can understand from the press, that Mr Peres is not rejecting the idea. Mr Rabin also did not reject it at one time. I think that even someone like Mr Mordekhay Gur has even expressed a positive view about such a possibility. However, according to announcements by several members of the Alignment, it is clear they will also have a split. MAPAM will leave -- they have seven Knesset members -- and Mr Sarid and Ms Aloni will also leave. Nine Knesset members will leave the Alignment. Apparently this is what is deterring Mr Peres.

I cannot complain about him for considerations that anyone would take into account. The question is what is better? It is not for me to decide this for the Alignment. I think that this is the decisive factor that has prevented it to date. From our point of view, from the objective political viewpoint, also from that of making up the Cabinet, there are no problems. I have proposed that for every six Knesset members there will be one minister. In other words, if the Alignment enters with 48 Knesset members and we have 48, there will be an equal balance. The Likud and the Alignment will each have eight Cabinet ministers. The small factions will also have to be incorporated, and then it will not be necessary to be scrupulous about the figure from the aspect of representation, even a faction of three can have a minister. And then, the number of Cabinet members will be roughly the same as it is today: 18 or 19, without any change, only the balance would be changed. Therefore, if the Alignment enters as a whole, there will not even be a difference between it and the Likud in the number of representatives in the Cabinet.

Question: People in the Alignment are saying that one of the problems will be the defense portfolio. If the defense portfolio was to be guaranteed them, they would consider it.

Answer: One appoints a committee and only then does it examine who will get what portfolio. We, I am speaking about members of the Likud, have shown great understanding. The example is the NRP. While in the Alignment and MAPAI governments the NRP used to get crumbs, in the government led by the Likud, the NRP for the first time got the education portfolio, which is a ministry of central importance in any nation and certainly for us, the interior portfolio which also includes the police and being in charge of the autonomy negotiations, and also the religious affairs portfolio. During the time of Alignment rule, the NRP was in the government but was not in power. Today it is in the government and in power.

We also showed this positive attitude toward TAMI and the other factions. I am not boasting, I think that is how one should behave. We have truly loyal partners. We work together, in mutual loyalty, and the same applies to the Alignment. If it joins, we will certainly not be mean, but details must be worked out by a joint committee.

BEGIN ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

TA271925 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Speech by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the nation to mark Israel's Independence Day -- live in studio]

[Text] Citizens of Israel, members of the Jewish nation, dear friends: A happy holiday to you all; a happy holiday to all those who love Israel. Permit me, before I make my remarks to mark the 34th Independence Day, to read to you the letters I sent to the defense minister, to the chief of staff, to the commander of the Southern Command, and to the inspector general of the police force, on the day marking the evacuation of the Yamit District. The media, including the press, published only very tiny excerpts from these letters and I am convinced I have not only the right, but the duty to make these remarks known in full to the public.

Here is my letter to the minister of defense: Dear Arik, by virtue of your post as minister of defense you were given the task of evacuating Yamit District and our citizens who settled there in village and town, in accordance with the appeals of the Governments of Israel. I am convinced that since the establishment of the state 34 years ago, no cabinet member has been burdened with a more difficult, more painful, more responsible, more delicate mission. The government had decided as follows: to keep, in the fitting conditions, our international commitment according to the peace treaty and not to shed blood. You fulfilled this mission completely. You brought to it wisdom and a love of Israel, which have typified you ever since you volunteered in the days of your youth to fight for the nation of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el.

For generations you commanded wonderful fighters in many battles and you led them to splended victories, including the campaign of the battle of crossing of the Suez Canal in 1973, the splitting of the Egyptian Army in 1973 and the encircling of the Egyptian Third Army which brought the IDF to within 95 kilometers of Egypt's capital in the Yom Kippur War. It is to your credit that in this unprecedented evacuation campaign, not even one drop of Jewish blood has been spilt. In the name of the government, I express to you the profound gratitude of friends.

To our chief of staff I wrote: Dear Raful, blessed be the chief commander to whose commands such an army stands at the ready to defend the nation and its sons, the homeland and its land. Blessed be the nation who appoints such a one as you to command its army.

To the commander of the Southern Command I wrote: My general and my friend, all the citizens of Israel have watched you with concern, with bated breath and with wonder as you fulfilled the most difficult task ever laid upon a commander of our or any other army, of any country whatsoever, and that task -- to implement the Cabinet decision -- you, the IDF's supreme commander, completely fulfilled without blood being spilt, with honor, with glory, with wisdom and with the love of Israel. The tears of a man, a soldier and a commander have no equal in holiness.

To the inspector general of the police force I wrote: The police force, like the army, acted with wisdom and with the love of Israel. The commanders, the men and the policemen have implemented this mission without casualties, without shedding Jewish blood, despite the terrible difficulties in their path. I fully believe there will no longer be any need for the fulfillment of such missions. This sacrifice, too, we made for the sake of peace with the greatest and most important of the Arab countries and it is the hope of us all that peace will indeed prevail between Egypt and Israel.

Citizens of Israel, dear friends, 34 years ago we were able to remove British rule from our land, from Eretz Yisra'el, and to renew our independence in it. On the date 4 Iyar, David Ben-Gurion declared the independence of Israel and read the declaration of independence to us. I will read several sentences from it.

In Eretz Yisra'el the Jewish nation arose, and there its spiritual, religious and political image was formed. There it lived a life of national regeneration. There it created assets of national and general humanitarian culture and it made the entire world the heir of the eternal book of books. After the nation was expelled from its land by the force of arms, it kept faith in all the lands of its dispersal and did not refrain from prayer and hope to return to its land and in it renew its political freedom. And it is indeed true that the people have come back to their land and renewed there their political freedom.

The day after that, on Saturday evening, I said on the radio station of the Irgun in Eretz Yisra'el, from the underground, among other things, the following words: However, even after we win this battle, and we will win it, supreme efforts will be required to maintain our independence, to liberate our homeland. First of all, it will be necessary to raise, make splendid and foster Israel's armed force without which we will have no homeland, no freedom or even existence. The Hebrew army can and must be one of the most trained and polished of the world's armies. In modern warfare it is not numbers that count. What counts is the spirit, what counts is the brain and what is the spirit of our fighters -- and this will be proved by all the Hebrew youth, the youth of the Haganah, the youth of Lehi, the youth of Etzel, the wonderful and amazing Hebrew youth the likes of which no nation has been blessed with, the likes of which generation of all the generations of Israel, from the days of Bar-Kokhba to the Bilu'im, has not seen. As for the brain, well, the brain of the nation of Israel is the essence of the thought of 120 generations of reasoners, of those searching for God and finding him. The power of discovery of this brain is the greatest of our natural riches and unlimited. The military science that will be founded on the Hebrew brain will be one of the most developed in the world. We will have power, great power, for we have a brain, a thinking brain, an inventive brain.

And Israel is indeed a true, wonderful power, one unmatched since the days of the Maccabis; since then the nation of Israel has not been so deeply rooted and so strong in its homeland as it is these days and so I have advice for you, citizens of Israel: Keep the precept "rejoice in your holiday"; let us rejoice on our day of independence. We have reason to rejoice.

We have reason to be grateful to our Father in Heaven. Thirty-four years ago we were nothing but 600,000 Jews in Eretz Yisra'el, a minority, and within the minority there was a smaller minority that fought for the sake of our independence and freedom and, with the help of God, we were able to overthrow our enemies and since then we have brought millions of Jews from all corners of the world and today we have nearly 3.5 million Jews and we still hope and fully believe that millions of our people will come, from East and West, from the Soviet Union and the free countries, and together we will build Eretz Yisra'el.

On the eve of Independence Day, we evacuated the entire Sinai Peninsula and it will be noted that it was of our own free will, not as a defeated nation, but as a victorious nation, for our neighbors, the Egyptian people. Why did we do this? Because since the 1948 war, all our aspirations, all our dreams have been of peace. We fought five wars. They were imposed upon us and we had to defend our nation and rescue it from our enemies and we did rescue it, at a terrible price of blood, of 15,000 killed, the sons of the sacred families who sacrificed their dear ones; at a price of more than 30,000 wounded, disabled for the rest of their lives. All honor to our fighters. But we always aspired for our nation to be given a historic period, a generation, two generations, and Israel would be calm for 40 years, perhaps for 80 years, as all other nations have been, and we would rest from the wars and there would be no bereavement and there would be no orphans and there would be no sorrow and mourning among our people. Such was our aspiration and this time we have signed a peace treaty with the greatest and strongest of the Arab countries. The total of all our other neighbors' populations is not even as much as half of the Egyptian population.

There are grounds for hope that Egypt has left the cycle of war against Israel for a long, long time. Perhaps one day this country will be lucky enough to be calm for 40 and perhaps double that. Not one of us can say this with certainty. Nobody is capable of knowing this, but this has been our aspiration. Three times we retreated from the Sinai and three times the state of war prevailed; the Suez Canal was closed to us; we were deprived twice of freedom of shipping in the Gulf of Elat. But no more. This time we have signed a peace treaty. There is no longer a state of war. Merchant ships and warships, too, pass freely through the Suez Canal. Freedom of shipping in the Straits of Tiran has been guaranteed for generations. There is no power that can drive away from there a military unit of the United States, stationed there to maintain the freedom of shipping. This is the change, a revolutionary change.

We have also received a renewed commitment from both Egypt and the United States to conduct negotiations over autonomy for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza -- not negotiations for a Palestinian state, not self-determination, which has one meaning: not a state, a Palestinian state, that would jeopardize our very existence, jeopardize all the citizens of Israel who live on the coastal plain at a distance of 8 miles from the seashore, less than the length of Broadway in New York. Who would conceive that we should retreat to that line? Under no circumstances will we do that. We will maintain our security. We will guarantee our safety. It is true that the sacrifices we have made for the sake of peace have been many and painful. Who knows this better than I? After all, I signed that document, the peace treaty, and we also saw what happened in the last few days before the evacuation of the Yamit District. What did we see?

All Israel's eyes watched and saw, to my regret, the lifting of hands against a Hebrew soldier fulfilling his duty. We saw violence on the one hand and, on the other, we saw the greatness and the holiness and the supreme spirit of an army not using its weapons. No other army in the world would have behaved in this way. I know how Arab armies would have behaved in such cases. They would have set up weapons aiming at the roofs filled with people; they would have given an ultimatum to come down in an hour or else within an hour they would have opened fire. All would have come down, but they would also have been brought down, on stretchers, dead or wounded. Our army behaved thus. I saw them.

You all saw them climbing up on ladders. The ladders were pushed away, pushed back over an abyss. One of the soldiers fell from a ladder and was nearly killed. He was saved with difficulty, but not one soldier used his weapon. Not even one drop of blood was spilt from among those who behaved as they behaved, but after that we extended a hand, at the Cabinet session, and I extend it tonight, too, in preparation for the 34th Independence Day, to all those who made mistakes, erred, even misled, even incited.

We are one nation. Let us rejoice on our holiday and let us prepare for the coming battles. We will have problems. There is no doubt about this. We will stand up to the battles, but we will stand up to them as one people, together, in the love of Israel, in the love of Eretz Yisra'el and we will be able, with the help of God, we will be able to do this and we will guarantee the future of our nation, its security and safety, for generations in our homeland, in Eretz Yisra'el. A happy holiday to you all.

EYTAN ON LEBANON RAID, ARMED FORCES GROWTH

TA272043 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1909 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by defense affairs correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay at the chief of staff's office, presumably on 25 or 26 April -- videotaped, broadcast as part of the daily Mabat television newsreel]

[Text] [passage unmonitorable due to faulty recording]

[Question] The IDF commanders and soldiers showed in Yamit the kind of restraint and cool-headedness that command respect. Would it not be advisable to apply the same standards and systems in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District in order to help calm the atmosphere there?

[Answer] In this question you are attempting to see a similarity between Jews with idealistic values -- regardless, at the present moment, of how they tried to implement their ideals -- and Arabs whose main goal is to annihilate the State of Israel. Therefore, there is no room for comparison of the security forces conduct in effecting order. Ho handgrenades were hurled in Yamit but they are being thrown in Gaza, Nabulus and in other places; bombs are being planted; sometimes people are even hurt. So there is no room for comparison.

[Question] The emphasis was on restraint, but restraint too is relative: There is restraint in Yamit and there is restraint in Judaea and Samaria. Are you satisfied with the methods we have been employing in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] Periodically we have examined and tried to find new ways and means in Judaea and Samaria. Usually we have been successful in maintaining a certain low degree of hostile activity. This is not to say we have exhausted all optimal ways of using force to maintain public order. We occasionally meet and discuss this subject, determining the action in accordance with the need and the daily reality in the area. I think we can reach a state of affairs where the disturbances of the order will be....

[Question] Minimal?

[Answer] Minimal? Or however you wish to say it, so that life, despite it all, can continue normally for both sides. I believe we are capable of doing this.

[Question] Upon completion of the evacuation of the Sinai, a new era dawns on the Middle East. In your opinion, what problems will the IDF face in the period beginning now?

[Answer] In peaceful activity on a day-to-day basis, the chief problems are the expanses for training and areas to train in the air, at sea and on land. These are the major problems that can be [word indistinct] in peaceful days. If, God forbid, something happens that transcends peace [me'ever leshalom], then peace with Egypt and the new borderline should secure for us a front whose status is different from other fronts, but one cannot address oneself to this with any degree of certainty beyond the peace agreement and faith in it.

[Question] What about training areas. How will you solve this problem?

[Answer] We have divided the area into subareas, training zones, for the various brigades.

[Question] You mean the Negev?

[Answer] Yes, the Negev. We allocated zones to the various branches, and I believe we will manage with this. The additional means that should make things easier for us are technical; some constitute a substitute for training in the actual terrain -- at least part of them. Similarly, this is a partial, not full, alternative. I believe that in a regime of order and discipline, in the manner we have been conducting our training exercises, we have reached a high level and we will manage.

[Question] How do you read the terrorists' intentions in the near future?

[Answer] I think the terrorists will try to achieve reinforcement in Lebanon. This is one possibility. Another possibility is that they will continue to sit and wait to see how things turn out in the Arab world. As to which possibility stands a greater chance of happening, I have no idea right now.

[Question] What were the results of the air operation launched against the terrorist bases and the Syrians in Lebanon last week?

[Answer] We launched an operation as a reminder, that is, our aim was to show that no unilateral activity is acceptable. In other words, we cannot allow the terrorists to act against us while we manacle ourselves and stand quietly in the corner. So this was a reminder to the terrorists. The result is striking and impressive. We hit everything we set out to hit and completely destroyed three bases. We also caused a lot of casualties. Secondly, we sought to remind the Syrians that when we operate in Lebanon we are not to be disturbed. We simply do not like it when someone interferes in our legitimate operations there against the terrorists, and the lesson they learned was that two MiG-23's were, for the first time in history, downed by F-16's.

[Question] Were terrorist tanks destroyed in these operations?

[Answer] We did not attack bases that had tanks but we did attack bases that had other means of warfare, ammunition depots, artillery pieces and command centers and a naval base belonging to [Ahmad] Jibril's organization. As a reminder and also as an operation per se all the goals were achieved.

[Question] In the past, during 1980 and 1981, the IDF used a tactic that appeared to be very successful: using pin pricks, hitting at a single point, against the terrorists. Should one regard last week's operation as a revival of this method if the terrorists take action against us?

[Answer] We will not say what method we will employ. If you had been a villager, I would have given you an example of pins.

There is a pin used in sewing sacks, which is thick. One would be safe in saying that the latest air force activity was the prick of a pin with which sacks are sewn, and I think they understood it well.

[Question] Why do you think the terrorists have not reacted to this attack?

[Answer] They may still react. Today we evacuated the Sinai, and they may react tomorrow, the day after or in a couple of days. They may not. I would say there is 50 percent chance that such a possibility will or will not occur. They know -- or should know -- that activity against us along the border, any border, and inside the country will -- might -- bring upon them destruction.

[Question] If we take action against the terrorists in Lebanon, will this not mean a comprehensive war?

[Answer] It does not necessarily mean an all-out war.

[Question] Can you envision a situation in which we, let us say, initiate an action against the terrorists in Lebanon on a large scale and yet the Syrians do not intervene?

[Answer] The Syrians have tried to interfere even when we have launched limited operations against the terrorists. It is a fact that to date we have downed 19 Syrian aircraft, including the last two. This is interference. We also downed two helicopters, so that makes 21 aircraft downed to date. So it is not unusual for them to try to interfere. You probably mean a different kind of intervention.

[Question] Yes, on the Golan Heights.

[Answer] I think they can interfere, but as to whether or not they will want to interfere, this very much depends on how they assess the situation in terms of what we would do to them, their situation in the Arab world, the backing they believe they could get from the outside, and perhaps they have additional considerations -- domestic considerations -- which I am not familiar with and do not know much about. Still, I would like to emphasize that it is not a must that the Syrians be involved in every Israeli operation against the terrorists in Lebanon.

[Question] Do you think it is possible to exterminate the terrorists as a key military-political element in Lebanon?

[Answer] As a military element, yes. As to what kind of political ability to exist they might have afterwards, it is difficult for me to estimate: Perhpas -- or rather certainly -- there are people who are capable of evaluating the terrorists' political power and they will be able to provide a more precise answer to this. I think their political ability will also be harmed; but I cannot tell how much.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, the defense budget was frozen and the IDF has in fact stopped the quantitative growth of its order of battle. On the other hand, the Arab armies continue to increase their power. Don't you fear a dangerous violation in the balance of forces between us and them?

[Answer] Even if the defense budget had not been frozen, or if no budget cuts had been effected, there is a limit to the quantitative and the qualitative growth of the army. According to the plans determined many years ago, we have reached the required quantity and the quantity we can sustain -- that is in terms of the size of the army. Now the efforts -- actually not now, but already since 2 years ago, and they will continue into the next decade -- have been devoted to the quality: to replace old material with new material, to overhaul and renew [lehadesh] means of warfare, to improve the training and the professional level in all the fields. Very little is dedicated to quantitative growth.

[Question] In what areas will there still be a quantitative growth?

[Answer] The air force will reach the quantitative level set for it, and in absolute terms, will experience a growth. This is still growth, albeit modest, not only in combat aircraft but also in other types of aircraft.

This will also be true in the armored forces. The quantities are directed toward supplementing quotas in existing frameworks. In other words, there is no quantitative growth in the number of brigades, but only in terms of supplementing the quotas or in receiving new tanks such as the Merkava and removing from operation old, obsolete tanks. This holds true for the artillery, for naval vessels and in every field. This does not harm the improvement of quality in the means of warfare developed and produced in Israel.

[Question] In other words, when you talk about quality you mean primarily new means of warfare that will be manufactured in Israel? Can one look forward to something revolutionary?

[Answer] One can, but this is not for the television.

[Question] You are embarking on -- or are in the midst of -- the fifth and last year of your service as chief of staff. What would you wish for yourself for this year?

[Answer] That what I did in the last 4 years will continue in this year, which lies ahead of me, and that this will be a year of peace as a result of the army's deterrent force.

[Question] Thank you very much.

[Answer] You are welcome.

PERES, RABIN REJECT NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

TA261436 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Apr 82 p 2

[Report by Sha'ya Segal]

[Excerpts] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres and MK Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday flatly rejected Prime Minister Menahem Begin's latest call for forming a national unity government, which was published in the Egyptian weekly MAY. Mr Peres rejected the proposal in a conversation with newsmen while he was touring Tiberias, whereas MK Rabin was speaking at a ceremony in Kefar Tavor held on the occasion of naming the cultural center in the village after the late Yig'al Alon.

Peres and Rabin replied differently when asked about the date desirable to the Labor Party for holding the next Knesset elections. MK Peres said that should the government submit a proposal for early elections to the Knesset, "I shall support the proposal with all my heart." MK Rabin said that holding elections in November this year, as proposed on several occasions, "would be an error on the part of the Labor Party." According to Rabin, the best date for new elections from the point of view of the Labor Party would be in mid-1983, "because by then important issues will have been clarified."

Speaking to journalists, Mr Peres congratulated the government on completing the withdrawal. He said that from now on Israel must devote more attention to developments on the northern border following the shrinking by two-thirds of the territory under Israel's control.

He also said Jordan should now be invited to participate in peace negotiations, and that he believes Jordan has no alternative now because of its situation: On the one hand, Jordan is in conflict with the Syrians, and on the other, it is dependent on Iraq, which is considered now to be losing its war with Iran. Jordan is left isolated.

Mr Peres stressed: Under no circumstances will we agree to the dismantling of settlements in exchange for peace with Jordan.

Mr Rabin also warned that there is no doubt that the two other partners to the peace agreement, Egypt and the United States, will try to deviate from the Camp David accords and that we will have to resist these efforts.

Official Alignment Reaction

TA271257 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Apr 8]

[Text] The Alignment's official reaction team has rejected the prime minister's proposal not to remove settlements. Our reporter says the Alignment will give its official response only after party leader Shim'on Peres meets with the premier on Thursday. The Alignment's reaction this morning was that Israel is free to decide as it wishes, but there is certainly no need to make decisions for the future which, the statement says, only satisfies the grandiose tendencies of the Herut Party and its leadership.

MUBARAK CONGRATULATES BEGIN ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

TA271039 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Egyptian president has sent telegrams of congratulations to President Navon and the prime minister on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day. In the telegrams, Mubarak reiterates Egypt's determination to proceed with the peace progress.

EGYPT'S 'ALI: PEACE NOT AN 'EPHEMERAL PHENOMENON'

TA271301 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 p 78

[Text] "Peace between Israel and Egypt is not an ephemeral phenomenon. This is a permanent peace between two nations that have had enough of wars and acknowledge there is no way other than peace," Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in a special talk to YOMAN HASHAVU'A on the occasion of the completion of that part of the Israeli-Egyptian peace process involving the Sinai evacuation.

General 'Ali, one of the senior Egyptian Army commanders during the Yom Kippur war and one of the peace architects and its eager supporters ever since President as-Sadat's initiative was launched said: "We, the commanders of the battlefield of yesterday and the statesmen of today know better than anyone why we should foster and adhere to peace. In the five wars we went through we witnessed both the heavy price paid and the victims. We reached a mutual decision that it is about time to break the cycle of wars and enmity and embark on the peace process. This is not an easy road but it was absolutely necessary and there is no way back," General 'Ali said.

The Egyptian foreign minister wants to calm the people in Israel and said: "Egypt has not struggled for peace in order to get the Sinai back but in order to live in peace with Israel forever. The moment Israel has met all its commitments I believe peace will grow stronger and all fears about us not meeting our obligations will prove false ones. We intend to strengthen peace. It is our hope that other Arab countries will follow the path of peace. This is the only way and there is no way back."

AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME MID-MAY IN U.S.

TA271134 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 p 1

[Report by Mati Golan and from the United States by Gid'on Samet]

[Excerpt] The autonomy negotiations will be resumed in the middle of May in Washington at the ministerial level. This has recently been concluded in principle between Israel, Egypt and the United States.

The United States will be represented in the negotiations by Secretary of State Haig and Egypt will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali as well as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. Israel has not yet decided on its representatives. There are several alternatives: It is possible that the only representative will be Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg (who is the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Affairs) or that Dr Burg will be joined by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, or that Israel will be represented by Foreign Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Israel has already agreed in principle to the resumption of the autonomy negotiations in Washington. Final approval, however, depends on Egypt's consent that when Israel hosts the autonomy negotiators, the talks will be held in Jerusalem and nowhere else. There is great sensitivity in the government on this matter, sensitivity which has grown since the visit of the Egyptian president to Israel was canceled due to his refusal to visit Jerusalem.

The Reagan administration has expressed its intention to speed up the autonomy negotiations in the coming months upon the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. U.S. administration officials said in private talks that the renewed effort will follow preparatory work and it may include another visit by Secretary of State Haig to the region.

EGYPT TO OPEN TABAH BORDER POST 1 DAY LATE

TA271810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Egyptian director of the border post in Rafah has informed his Israeli counterpart that the post in Tabah will only open the morning of 29 April. The Egyptian consul in Elat had said previously that the post in Tabah would open tomorrow morning and last minute arrangements to get it working were being made.

JEWISH AGENCY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 20 SETTLEMENTS

TA270934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Jewish Agency Settlement Department will establish 20 new settlements in Samaria and in the Hebron Hills area. The settlements will be established in areas with a sparce Jewish population. Our correspondent on settlement affairs Shalom Oren reports the plan has been submitted to the prime minister and several Cabinet members for their perusal.

[Begin Oren recording] The plan for the establishment of 20 settlements is part of the 100,000-plan of the Settlement Department. They will be established in areas in which there is a regional infrastructure and where all the land is state owned. These facts emerged following an indepth probe conducted by Jewish Agency officials. Six settlements will be established in southern Judaea and on the slopes of the Hebron Hills: Nagid, 'En 'Arub, Kokhva, Yaqim, Susiya and 'Otni'el.

Two settlements will be established in southern Jerusalem: Betar and Ne'ot Adumin. The rest of the settlements will be established in northern and central Samaria: Ginat, Moqed, Matar, Hermesh, Tirza, Brakha, Mikhmatat, Tel Hayim and Ma'ale Levona. All the names are temporary. According to the plan they will be communal settlements; the establishment of the settlements will cost 600 million shekels.

In addition, six settlements will be established through private initiative in western Samaria, near the green line. The head of the Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, has discussed this issue with the prime minister and various Cabinet members. The prime minister is now expected to give the go ahead to submit the plan to the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs for its approval. It should be pointed out that core groups are ready to settle in all the settlements as well as many families from overseas who want to settle beyond the green line. [end recording]

KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT APPROVES 5-YEAR SETTLEMENT PLAN

TA261247 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 82 p 7

[Excerpts] The meeting of the United Kibbutz Movement, which closed at the end of the week at Kibbutz Yotvata in the 'Arava, approved the movement's 5-year settlement plan. The plan calls for the setting up of 20 new kibbutzim in the Golan Heights, the Galilee, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea area, the Negev and the 'Arava plain. The approved plan includes the establishment of 20 new kibbutzim in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, in the Yatir area, the Dead Sea area, the 'Arava, the Galilee, the Negev, the Jerusalem Hills and the Golan Heights.

BEGIN MAY VISIT UNITED STATES, MEET REAGAN IN JUNE

TA271213 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 p 2

[Report from the United States by Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] Washington, (Special) -- Prime Minister Begin may visit the United States at the beginning of June and it is possible that he will meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. On 7 June a special UN General Assembly session will be held for a discussion on disarmament. A number of leaders of Western countries are expected to be in New York for this session. Prime Minister Begin was invited by the Albert Schweitzer Institute in New York for a meeting that will be held in parallel with the UN General Assembly session on the issue of world peace. Begin was invited because he is the only politician in the world currently in an executive position who has won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In Washington it is thought that if Begin accepts the invitation it is possible he will also appear at the UN General Assembly and meet President Reagan, who will also participate in the UN session, to discuss peace negotiations in the Middle East.

WEINBERGER: STRATEGIC MEMORANDUM MAY BE RENEWED

TA262020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has said the administration will find a date soon to implement the strategic memorandum of understanding with Israel. In a talk with our Washington correspondent Shalom Qital, Secretary Weinberger said it was true there are misunderstandings regarding the current status of the memorandum, but they can be overcome. He stressed this was a question of strategic cooperation to guard the Middle East against an external danger and there was no question of cooperation aimed at a country within the area. On the matter of the supply of arms to Jordan, the U.S. secretary of defense said that within a few days Jordan would submit its requests to the administration and they would be examined. He hopes that he will visit Israel soon. A senior U.S. Defense Department source told our correspondent that the visit apparently will be in the autumn.

Further Details

TA270932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has hinted that the memorandum of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel may be renewed soon. Weinberger was replying to a question by our correspondent in Washington Shalom Qital.

[Begin recording] [Qital] Caspar Weinberger intends to visit Israel next fall. Replying to a question, he did not cite the exact date but merely said he intends to visit Israel and the date would be set at the hosts' convenience. A senior Pentagon source told me, however, the visit would take place in the fall. Referring to the memorandum of strategic cooperation, Weinberger gave good marks to the document and hinted about its imminent renewal.

[Weinberger -- in English] That kind of understanding, I think, is a useful document, it's one we have offered and suggested to many other countries in the Mideast and it is a very important part of trying to secure and preserve a strategic consensus to help safeguard the entire Mideast region.

[Qital translates the above and continues] Weinberger did not elaborate on U.S. policy in the region now that the withdrawal from the Sinai has been completed. He talked in general terms and said the United States would proceed with the peace process.

[Weinberger -- in English] I think that the withdrawal from the Sinai is certainly the first step in a long process, a very important step. And, I'm quite sure that we would want to pursue policies that we felt would most likely enhance the peace of that region.

[Qital translates the above and continues] Weinberger said the United States wants to acquire many friends in the region because this would contribute to establishing peace. Israel is certainly among these friends. We will not decrease our steadfast commitment to Israel's security, Weinberger added. Asked about arms supplies to Jordan, he replied: No decision has yet been made, the Jordanians may submit their request at the meeting of the joint Jordan-U.S. committee due to take place in a few days and then the administration will discuss it. [end recording]

KHAN YUNIS YOUTHS RIOT IN GAZA 27 APRIL

TA271302 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1250 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Gaza, 27 Apr -- Youths from Khan Yunis in Gaza rioted today on the main road crossing the Gaza District. They threw stones at Israeli cars and set tires on fire. Soldiers who arrived at the site dispersed the youths and detained some of them. A partial curfew continues in Rafah. In contrast with the past 2 days, the town is quiet. Celebrations by inhabitants in the Egyptian part of Rafah have ended. The presence of Egyptian police reinforcements is noted and more time will undoubtedly elapse before the populace will adapt itself to the new reality of a divided town. The ITIM correspondent in the Gaza District says there are as yet no permanent arrangements between the two parts of Rafah. It has been learned that this issue will be raised for discussion in a future meeting of the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee. Quiet prevailed in the other parts of the Gaza Strip this morning and life proceeded normally.

SEVERAL WOUNDED IN W. BANK, GAZA UNREST

TA281017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] This morning at the refugee camp of Jabalyah, in the Gaza Strip, four soldiers were injured by stones thrown at them, and four of the attackers were wounded by the soldiers' gunfire.

The soldiers, part of a patrol, were also attacked with a molotov cocktail. Disturbances also took place in Nabulus, Ramallah and Az-Zahiriyah. In a stone-throwing incident in Ramallah, five of the stone throwers were wounded by gunfire.

Further Details

TA281113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpt] In demonstrations in Hebron a border policeman was wounded by a rock thrown at his face. In Nabulus, five residents were injured by soldiers' gunfire during stormy demonstrations and were hospitalized at the Rafidiyah hospital. Demonstrations also occurred at the refugee camp of Ad-Duhayshah, in Hebron, and in Az-Zahiriyah.

UNIFIL SOLDIERS, TERRORIST SQUADS EXCHANGE FIRE

TA271124 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 p 1

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] The UNIFIL spokesman in southern Lebanon, Timor Goksel, announced yesterday that since the Israeli Air Force attack in Lebanon at the end of last week only one incident has been registered in southern Lebanon. Soldiers of the Netherlands UNIFIL battalion yesterday morning identified a two-man terrorist squad in the area of Kafra in the western sector. The squad was making its way to southern Lebanon. The soldiers opened fire at the squad and drove it away. About an hour later the Netherlands soldiers encountered a five-man squad and an exchange of fire followed. The squad retreated. During the exchanges of fire, the squad members directed bazooka and light-arms fire toward the Netherlands position.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTATOR SEES U.S.-PLO RAPPROCHEMENT

TA251137 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 82 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit]

[Text] For many years Israel was the exclusive address for U.S. requests to exercise restraint in reacting to Arab terrorist acts. As details of the act became known, the administration would appeal to us with a request that we refrain from launching a counterattack.

Jerusalem's attitude toward such requests was ambivalent: On the one hand, it resented the fact that the burden of effecting calm in the Middle East rested solely on it, but on the other, the U.S. approach flattered Israel in commending it as the only sane, civilized party to the conflict. Jerusalem was asked to do more because it is Jewish, democratic and modern and, naturally, by virtue of it being very sensitive to Washington's interests.

The United States has not eased its pressure on Israel. Perhaps the IDF reaction to the PLO violations of the cease-fire could have come a few weeks earlier were it not for that pressure, which proved itself pretty effective. Now, however, yet another rung and trend in the U.S. diplomatic effort has been added: Washington's appeal to the PLO to exercise restraint following the Israeli Air Force bombing. The terrorists' announcement hinted that the U.S. request was worded in the style of allies, something along the line of: "Refrain from shooting at the upper Galilee in order to deprive Israel of a pretext to invade southern Lebanon."

This appeal, which has not been denied, constitutes a political innovation, but even more so a psychological one, over which the Cabinet will do well to ponder each time it wishes to activate the IDF, even though it does not mean that relations being shaped between Washington and the PLO should always serve as a decisive factor in this issue.

According to a report from the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, the opposition also backed the Cabinet's decision in determining that 4 days ago circumstances were created in southern Lebanon that would necessitate a massive air attack on the terrorist bases. Right now it is too premature to assess the long-term effects of that development, but one can nevertheless evaluate the significance and implication of the U.S. appeal to the PLO.

The initiators of the U.S. approach understood in advance that it would most surely be publicized and that there was no way of keeping it secret. They also knew that their appeal to the terrorists would breed two interpretations: One, that Israel's unique standing as a restrained, balanced party to the conflict is no longer as stable as it was in the past; or two, that the PLO is thought in the United States to be more of a possible interlocutor than in the past. In either case -- as in the story of the glass that is half full or half empty -- the gap between Israel's and the PLO's image in the eyes of Washington has been bridged. We are not as spiritually strong to tolerate and ignore Palestinian terrorist acts, and the PLO is less insane.

One could admittedly assume that the contact with the PLO was established under special circumstances, when the United States wanted to ensure the withdrawal from the Sinai and feared that a volley of Katyushas directed from Lebanon to the upper Galilee might delay it, still any regional conflagration carries some sort of special circumstances of one type or another, and as soon as the cornerstone for a dialogue has been laid, one can hardly assume that Washington will hesitate to make use of it in the future as well. If in the next few days the PLO again turns naughty and once again violates the cease-fire -- either on a broad or a limited scale -- the United States will most likely again talk to Yasir 'Arafat, and with even greater desire.

Such a dialogue will bear political fruit if it transcends the framework of a one-time occasion. The Washington dialect as per the English dictionary includes a phrase whose literal translation is, "I owe you one," or, in Hebrew, "Take a chance and gamble on this one, you might reap fruit from it one day." If the PLO musters the internal strength to exercise restraint and hold back its main organizations -- excluding the marginal leftist groups -- its leadership will be able to drag Washington into a dialogue in which the U.S. debt to the terrorists will rise and double.

Any such increase in the debtors' column erodes one of the chief principles that have not yet been harmed in Israeli-U.S. relations, which is the agreement not to recognize the PLO as long as its charter calls for the annihilation of the State of Israel. Even though this U.S. formulation never satisfied the Alignment or Likud governments, it was sufficient for Jerusalem and Washington and will continue in the foreseeable future.

Israel, portrayed as less stable in the eyes of the United States might lose something from this understanding if the apparent charity the terrorists have been bestowing on Washington persists. At a distant point, the United States might forsake its unequivocal, unilateral demand that the PLO recognize Israel's right to exist and cease seeking its extermination as a precondition for its participating in political contacts. Any dialogue that would develop between the United States and the terrorists from now on will contribute toward effecting a slow change in the U.S. attitude and will tip the scale in favor of Washington's demand that the Israeli and PLO concessions be mutual, symmetric and simultaneous. As such a situation is created, President Ronald Reagan's latest letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, pledging total allegiance to the Camp David accords and processes, will be completely obliterated from memory.

Anyone assuming that in deciding to take action in southern Lebanon the Cabinet took into account not only the momentary frustrations but also the overall picture must presently add one important detail, namely, the stimulus each Israeli assault provides, like a catalyst, to encouraging the direct rapprochement between the United States and the terrorists of Beirut.

ALGERIA

'MINOR INCIDENTS' INVOLVE SECONDARY STUDENTS

PM271343 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 23-24 Apr 82 p 2

[Text] Minor incidents occurred when groups of secondary school students gathered after hearing disturbing rumors about the coming baccalaureat exams.

Some troublemakers exploited the youths' well-intentioned action to commit some disgraceful acts. They threw stones at store windows, however, security was soon restored following intervention by police forces who arrested some of the elements. Preliminary investigation shows none of those arrested had anything to do with the affairs of secondary school students. Investigations continue.

MALI MILITARY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT 26 APRIL

LD271254 Algiers APS in English 1035 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Algiers, 27 Apr (APS) -- The Malian military delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel Keita Mohamadou, commander of the State Police Force, left Algiers yesterday after an official several-day visit.

During its stay, the Malian delegation had talks with Mr. Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member, head of the CC Permanent Secretariat, on bilateral relations and cooperation, and the reinforcement of neighbourliness principles.

Colonel Mustapha Chelloufi, CC member, chief commander of the Darak El Watani (state police force) attended the audience.

BRIEFS

PRC NAVY OFFICIAL -- Algiers, 26 Apr (APS) -- Col Mustafa Benlousif, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Defense Ministry, yesterday evening received at the Defense Ministry Fang Chiang, assistant commander of the PRC Navy, currently visiting Algeria. The meeting was held in the presence of Lt Col Rashid Benyelis, member of the Central Committee and director of the Defense Ministry headquarters, and the PRC charge d'affaires in Algeria. [Text] [Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Apr 82 LD]

LIBYA

JALLUD ADDRESSES AFRICAN ECONOMY MINISTERS

LD272300 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud said the meeting of African ministers of planning and economy comes when the world's economic difficulties are increasing. Mankind faces sharp economic problems that embrace even advanced states.

In his speech at the opening session of the eighth ministerial conference of the African economic committee, which began its work yesterday evening at the Green Hope Hall in Tripoli, he said: This meeting gives the participants strong incentive to adopt suitable resolutions for which the African peoples are waiting because Africa's problems can only be solved by Africans themselves and an African determination to face the problems confronting the continent.

He said this can only be accomplished through true resolve and the ability of the Africans to solve their own problems. It will be resolved by Africans becoming accustomed to utilizing their natural resources and relying on their own abilities. He explained that colonialism is now trying to substitute the past political colonization of Africa with new economic and social colonialism.

He said all attempts at UN conferences have failed to produce a world economic system because the colonial powers obstruct the aspirations of the developing states. He added that the advanced colonial powers have been trying to perpetuate their policy of maintaining foreign economic domination over African economies.

MAURITANIA

ADDRESS BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY

AB271044 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 26 Apr 82

[From the program "Information Journal," address by Ould (Sidi Ahmed Iaya), secretary general of the presidency of the government, to a seminar organized by the Secretariat of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the mass education service for development cadres — date not given -- recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] This country belongs to us. "There are no foreign troops in our country and the fear of those who have been shouting: "Well, here we are: We have escaped from the Moroccans only to fall into the hands of the Algerians. We are going to fall into the hands of the Libyans. We are going to fall" ... [break in thought]. "The Moroccans left after our 4-year experience. There are no Algerians. There are no Libyans. There are no Frenchmen. There are no Americans. There are no Russians."

"It is true we have problems. Differences and disparities have existed for centuries and cannot be removed by a magic wand." It is, therefore, the responsibility of our cadres and of all of us to solve our problems as correctly and peacefully as possible. The more we are ready to take up arms to fight against an external enemy who would like to destroy us, the more we must resolutely face the task of building our country. "It is, therefore, not possible to exclude certain people. It is also not possible for certain people to exclude themselves. No one is allowed to exclude himself. Everybody must come to participate in the task. No one should sit on the fence."

"Mauritania can be built only through the contribution of all its citizens. However, they must be citizens who agree not to sell themselves to foreigners, who agree not to be in league with foreigners and who agree not to promote internal disparities. We are prepared to remove these disparities in a peaceful manner but we are not prepared to create confusion, to forget the disparities and thus to maintain the status quo which is not in favor of the majority of the Mauritanian people." The time of the construction of Mauritania by Mauritanians must come. Mauritania does not belong to a regime. It does not belong to one man. One does not work for a regime." One should not say: "As far as I am concerned, I will not do my work; I will not attend to patients because I am against the regime."

"No, you are attending to Mauritanians; you are teaching Mauritanians; you are working for Mauritanians. You are not working for a regime. It is not for the regime that you are working. When you refuse to work, it is not against the regime that you are acting. It is necessary that this should be understood." [applause]

TUNISIA

MINISTER DENIES CONTRAVENTION OF BOYCOTT

LD231006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Tunis, 23 Apr (KUNA) - Tunisian Information Minister Tahar Belkhojda denied his country plans to depart from the resolutions of the Arab boycott of companies dealing with Israel.

The minister was speaking at a press conference here yesterday evening to clarify the position with regard to reports that Tunisia intends to permit the construction of a plant for Renault cars, thereby contravening the Arab boycott of Israel.

The minister made the denial in reply to a question by the KUNA correspondent. He said: "We have agreed to the boycott and this is not new. We abide by the boycott not only because Tunisia hosts the Arab League but also because our policy is an Arab policy and is founded on Arab resolutions. However, this does not prevent Tunisia from having normal relations with French companies or existing interests with other countries as long as this is not done at the expense of the Palestine question or the Arab countries' interests."

"We have relations with France," Belkhojda said, "and a Renault car company representative happened to be here. It is logical for us to routinely meet with him, but we will not get involved with him in anything that would infringe upon our agreement with other Arab countries on the boycott."

Belkhojda denied any connection between Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's visit to the United States on Monday and circulated reports about the existence of a move for Tunisian-Moroccan military coordination with America's blessing with a view to creating a counter military balance to the Libyan-Algerian military accord over the Western Sahara and other African countries.

Belkhojda said: "The Tunisian prime minister's visit to the United States was arranged last [word indistinct]. We admit he will hold talks and conclude deals with American officials, including deals covering military supplies. It is no secret because we buy arms from the United States, Britain, Austria and other countries. However, these deals have nothing to do with the rumors being circulated."

Asked about Tunisia's position on the current situation between Morocco on the one hand and Algeria and Libya on the other over the Saharan question, Belkhojda said: "Tunisia has been working to repair relations between them, but it is not carrying out any official mediation in this regard and maintains a neutral stand with all sides."

Belkhojda also spoke of the Tunisian Government's relations with the trade unions which, he said, are strong. But he did not rule out strikes at any time. He discounted the likelihood of foreign hands being behind the recent strikes in Tunisia, the last of which was that of secondary school teachers.

SOMALIA

RADIO KULMIS CITES COUP ATTEMPT IN EARLY APRIL

EA262048 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Summary] Reports reaching us from Mogadishu say an attempted military coup has been aborted. Seventy army officers have been arrested, most are believed to be close relatives of Siad Barre. The leader of the abortive coup was General Omar Masaleh, former defense minister and now minister of health [as heard].

"(?The coup was disclosed) when Mohamed Siad Barre quickly returned to Mogadishu after cutting short his visit to Cairo and the Gulf states in early April. Our political correspondent says Gen Omar Haji Masaleh, who is believed to have led the attempted coup, was angry over his defense portfolio being taken from him in March, his removal from the army and his appointment as health minister. Our political correspondent says Gen Omar Haji Masaleh and senior officers were greatly opposed to the policies of the regime, which are founded on tribalism and division and Siad Barre's [words indistinct] of the other Somali tribes."

"Other experts on Somali affairs believe some politicians who recently disagreed with Siad policies were behind the abortive coup. Some of these politicians include Mohamed Siad Samatur Gaaliye and Dr Mohamed Adan Shaykh. The reports from Mogadishu also say Mohamed Siad Barre tried very hard to hide the abortive coup.

"Reports from Hargeisa, northwest region, say unrest and political confrontations continue in Hargeisa. Explaining the current situation and the resistance against repression, lack of freedom and abolition of trading, poverty and hunger and the state of emergency imposed in Hargeisa, the reports say the situation is still tense and students, women, old men and children and many residents of Hargeisa are still languishing in jails.

"Reports say Gen Ahmad Sulayman Dafleh, who represents Siad and is responsible for the massive imprisonments in Hargeisa, told a meeting in Hargeisa on Saturday: Siad Barre still loves you and is working for your own good; so you, people of Hargeisa, should stop the unrest and disruptions you are causing."

OPPOSITION GROUP APPOINTS MILITARY COMMANDER

EA232212 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Excerpt] A statement by the General Secretariat of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] says Gen (Adde) Musa Hirsi, who joined the DFSS at the beginning of this month, has been appointed commander of the DFSS forces.

LIBYAN LIBERATION FRONT LEADER BRIEFS PRESS

EA251920 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] To liberate the Libyan people from the fascist regime, we will use every possible means to destroy it, said secretary general of the Front for the Liberation of the Libyan people, Mr 'Abd al-Hamid (?Bukhush), in a press conference with foreign and local journalists.

In his statement, he spoke of the massacre, oppression and continuous harassment inflicted upon the Libyan people by the Al-Qadhdhafi regime, including its opposition to the Arab cause. Explaining this, he noted Al-Qadhdhafi's support for the Abyssinian regime in the destruction of liberation movements like the Ethiopian People's Liberation Front and Western Somali Liberation Front and wreaking havoc generally in the Arab world.

The secretary general of the Front for the Liberation of the Libyan People added that the front, which enjoys massive support from the Libyan people, is totally opposed to Al-Qadhdhafi's aid to and encouragement for international terrorism and the execution of Russian strategies in general.

The Front for the Liberation of the Libyan People, which unites the Libyan people inside and outside the country and has been carrying out its struggle for some time, was officially launched on 7 April.

Delegation Departs 25 April

EA261220 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 2045 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] The delegation led by the chairman of the Front for the Liberation of the Libyan People, (Sayid Bashir ar-Rabidha), left today at the end of its visit to Somalia.

Speaking to the SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, (Sayid ar-Rabidha) expressed his thanks to the president of Somalia, Challe Siad, the government and the Somali people for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. The chairman said his front is quite willing to assist in the struggle to liberate the Somali people and land, particularly in promoting the economic development of Somalia.

(Ar-Rabidha) pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi is causing grave problems for the people and country of Libya where he is an absolute dictator, adding that he has squandered the economy and resources of Libya on international terrorism.

The delegation congratulated the people and Government of Egypt on the recovery of the Sinai.

UGANDA

HILL TRIBESMEN CLASH WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES

AB271655 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Kampala, April 27 (AFP) -- Members of the Rwenzururu movement in western Uganda clashed with government soldiers at the weekend, the independent daily UGANDA POST reported today.

The POST stated that two children were among several people on an army lorry who were injured when the hill tribesmen in the Rwenzururu movement opened fire on the vehicle as it drove through a roadblock they had set up. The tribesman had been stopping all traffic at the block, between the towns of Fort Portal and Kasese, near the slopes of Mount Rwenzori, the newspaper said.

The POST said the soldiers drove straight to the nearest barracks and reinforcements were sent to the area. The tribesmen reportedly retreated into the mountains after a brief exchange of fire. The mountains are the homeland of the Bakonjo people, who have a reputation for reacting against outside authority.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA BEGINS PLAN TO IMPROVE RURAL SECTOR

AB250821 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Hubert-Mary Djamani]

[Text] Bangui, 24 April (AFP) -- The Central African Republic's head of state, General Andre Kolingba, is looking to the next stage of his plan to set the country on its feet again.

Following moves to clean up the management of public finance, restore a climate of confidence and get the people down to work, General Kolingba, who was handed power by President David Dacko last September, aims to lift the country economically. He is placing his hopes in the rural sector, whose production is closely linked to the national economy. More than 80 percent of the population lives by agriculture, which also supplies most of the country's exports -- between 60 and 77 percent from 1971 to 1977, and 54 percent in 1978. But preceding governments failed to take proper steps to help rural dwellers develop. They neglected to maintain roads and tracks, making it impossible for peasants to distribute and sell their produce, and imposed innumerable taxes, charges and levies.

General Kolingba's intention is to reverse this trend, as shown by the planned establishment of an agricultural credit bank and the raising of the price paid for seed-cotton by one-sixth. The idea is both to involve the farmer closely in the national recovery programme and to improve the living conditions of large areas of the population.

By personally launching the new season in the east of the country April 16 before a crowd of 20,000 in the market place at Bambari, 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Bangui, General Kolingba also apparently wanted to show concern to find ways of initiating rural development properly, involving the people and halting the exodus from the land to the cities.

Since last Tuesday, the ministers of the military government have been touring various [words indistinct] potentially a great source of wealth for Central Africa. General Kolingba also feels it is essential to bring the apparatus of development closer to the farmer by decentralising and [words indistinct] direct participation in taking decisions which affect them. [Passage indistinct] ambitious aim, but fully in line with the process of economic recovery, and General Kolingba appears to have a good chance of succeeding in his gamble.

CHAD

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS

PM261313 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 82 p 8

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Majid interview with Defense Minister Adoum Togoi in Ndjamena -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] What is the nature of the Chad problem? Is it tribal, as some claim, or is it religious or political?

[Answer] No African state today is free from such problems. These problems are caused not by African but by unseen hands working in the dark to create confusion and problems. These are the hands of world imperialism. We are no longer in control of our destiny. Chad is one of the states with political, religious and tribal problems. As the legitimate Government of Chad, we are faced with the problem of the mutiny of the Forces of the North led by Hissein Habre who, it is believed, is manipulated by world imperialism, as I have already said.

[Question] There are conflicting reports about the fighting between the government forces and the forces of the North. Some reports say Hissein Habre's forces have advanced and occupied more territory while other reports say the national army has retaken some areas. What is the truth?

[Answer] Conditions are still difficult. We certainly appreciate your interest which, if anything, indicates that the Arab press cares what happens in Chad. Calm and stability prevail in Ndjamena and the rest of Chad except east and central Chad where the Forces of the North are concentrated. These forces exploited the vacuum created by the withdrawal of the Libyan forces at the Chadian Government's request and occupied these positions. The government forces later launched a surprise attack and recaptured Oum Hadjer. As you know, there are up's and down's in war. Some tactical mistakes were made and Habre's forces again managed to reoccupy this town. Government forces now stand ready to retake the town and perhaps other areas. These are military secrets which I cannot divulge now. We believe any success by the Forces of the North is only temporary and will not last long. We know Hissein Habre and his real stature.

[Question] What about the African peacekeeping forces and their role in establishing peace and security?

[Answer] These forces are in Chad now, but we wonder about this matter. Where is security, where is stability? There is a mutiny by 1 of the 11 groups which signed the Lagos agreement providing for the formation of a Transitional National Union Government. The war is raging under the very eyes of these forces.

[Question] How do you view the OAU's threat to withdraw these forces if the Chadian Government doesn't respond to the resolutions adopted recently in Nairobi by the permanent committee for Chad and if it doesn't implement the peace plan?

[Answer] The OAU decisions are not individual decisions. We are members of this organization and we respect it and adhere to its resolutions. The Libyan forces were withdrawn last December in complicance with these resolutions. As the country's legitimate government, we are doing our best to provide stability and security for the people who have long suffered and are still suffering from war. This can only be achieved with the help of the OAU and the neighboring and friendly countries. We have accepted the presence of these forces. Whether they remain or withdraw is entirely up to the organization. We impose nothing on it.

[Question] Does this mean you believe it is not within the jurisdiction of the permanent committee for Chad to make these decisions?

[Answer] This committee is not mentioned in any of the OAU's official documents on the Chad question and it has no legitimate right to make such decisions. Even if such a committee exists, it has no right to speak on behalf of the Chadian people. This so-called committee exceeded its powers when it adopted a decision calling for a cease-fire and for negotiations to promote national reconciliation among the forces concerned. The committee's role is extremely limited. The summit conference of all the heads of state is the only body entitled to adopt decisions binding on all members.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the limits of this committee?

[Answer] The aim of the meeting was to define the role of the peacekeeping forces in Chad and to discuss the financing of these forces.

[Question] What about the mediation delegation which arrived in Ndjamena in the middle of March to implement the resoltuions of the permanent committee?

[Answer] We ask the same question and we ask: What are the duties of this committee?

[Question] What is your reply to the claim that the Transitional National Union Government of Chad in fact collapsed last November?

[Answer] This government is legitimate and has been recognized by the mother organization since July 1980.

[Question] At one of his popular rallies, President Goukouni said recently that only the people of Chad can set a date for the elections. Does this mean there will be no elections within the period set by the OAU which expires in June?

[Answer] When we talk about free elections in the country, we mean exactly that. Everyone should vote in complete freedom without pressure from anybody. This requires certain propitious conditions and circumstances, such as stability, security, freedom of movement on every inch of the homeland and a permanent constitution. As you can see, war is still raging and the circumstances are unsuitable. The deadline set by the said committee for elections in Chad shows clearly how ignorant those people are about Chad and its circumstances. We, the people of Chad, know our country and its circumstances best. We will hold the elections when we see the circumstances are favorable.

[Question] What is the state of Chadian-Sudanese relations, especially after the Chadian president's recent visit to Khartoum?

[Answer] We always seek good neighborly relations with all countries neighboring us, especially Sudan. As you might have noticed, there is no difference between the Chadian and Sudanese people in appearance, customs, traditions or Arabic language.

BENIN

CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN COTONOU 27 APRIL

AB272010 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] A CPSU delegation led by Comrade Merenishchev, second secretary of the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldavia, arrived in our country this morning. It was met on arrival by Comrade Sotti Toffey, member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB] and first vice president of organizing committee. This visit falls within the framework of the relations between the PRPB and the CPSU.

CAPE VERDE

ASYLUM GRANTED TO ZAIRE OPPOSITION MEMBERS

AB271810 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Praia, April 27 (AFP) -- The Cape Verde Government has granted political asylum to seven Zairese opposition members now living in Angola, informed sources said today. They were not identified by name, but the sources said they were from the region of Shaba Province, which is the former secessionist state of Katanga. The granting of asylum was negotiated by Onesimo Silveira, a former representative in Angola of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who has since moved to Ethiopia.

GHANA

HANSEN SAYS EXPLOITATION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED

AB271800 Accra International Service in English 1630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] secretary for the interior, Johnny Hansen, has declared that his ministry will not allow Ghanaians to exploit each other. The new price list announced by the PNDC will therefore be rigidly enforced to bring the cheats in the society to book. He was speaking at a mass rally in Accra to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Dr Nkrumah. The rally was organized by the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guard and other progressive organizations. The PNDC secretary called on all Ghanaians to be vigilant since enemies of the revolution are making efforts to thwart attempts to make Ghana economically sound.

The general secretary of the Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guard, Mr Provencal, said that had an unholy alliance between the disbanded People's National Party government and imperialist forces not been broken by the 31st December revolution, Ghanaians would have been slaves in their own country. A member of the interim national coordinating committee for provisional defense committees, (Enyenya Yeh), emphasized that the success of the revolution depends on the people to change their mentality and attitude to work.

NIGERIA

PRESIDENT SIGNS 1982 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

AB271705 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari today in Lagos signed the 1982 appropriation bill into law.

The president remarked that the signing of the law came at a time when the country's economy was facing difficulties as a result of the dwindling resources. The president praised members of the National Assembly for taking a broad outlook of the situation by not inflating the budget more than what the executive proposed.

REDEMPTION PARTY CRITICIZES AUSTERITY MEASURES

AB271327 Lagos NAN in English 1245 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Ibadan, Apr 27 (NAN) -- The PRP [People's Redemption Party] faction led by Chief Michael Imoudu yesterday in Ibadan described the austerity measures by the Federal Government as a wasted exercise which would increase the sufferings of the people.

Addressing a news conference, the deputy national secretary of the party, Dr. Lekan Balogun, said that the affluent members of the society stood to gain from the measures, while the masses would continue to suffer. He said that the country's "ailing economy" was made worse by the involvement of the government in projects that were not economically viable. Dr Balogun appealed to "patriotic Nigerians" to come together and control the centre in 1983, so that they would evolve an economic system that would ensure that "the creators of wealth determine how the wealth is shared."

UPPER VOLTA

TWO ARMED FORCES COUNCIL MEMBERS RESIGN

AB261805 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT 26 Apr 72

[Text] Ouagadougou, April 26 (AFP) -- Two army captains have resigned from Upper Volta's Armed Forces Council, the country's supreme military and political consultative body, L'OBSERVATEUR (THE OBSERVER) newspaper reported here today. The paper, Upper Volta's most widely-read, did not indicate the reasons for the resignations nor whether they were accepted.

Two weeks ago, Captain Thomas Sankara, former secretary of state to President Sangoule Lamizana in charge of information, also resigned. His resignation was accepted.

New Information Secretary

AB270801 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The new secretary of state at the presidency charged with information, Capt Ouedraogo Adama, assumed duty yesterday morning. He met with top officials of his department in the afternoon in his office.

MOZAMBIQUE

TECHNICAL-MILITARY TALKS WITH PORTUGAL BEGIN

EA231254 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Talks on technical-military cooperation between Mozambique and Portugal began in Maputo yesterday. The Portuguese delegation to the talks is led by General Sousa Meneses who arrived in Maputo yesterday. The talks between Portugal and Mozambique are within the framework of the broad fields of possible cooperation between the two countries whose relations assumed a new dimension with the visit of Gen Ramalho Eanes to Mozambique.

Minister's Reception

EA260206 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] -- National Defense Minister Lt Gen Alberto Chipande received General Sousa Meneses and Brig Lourenco dos Santos in Maputo yesterday. General Sousa Meneses is leading a Portuguese military delegation in talks with Mozambican military authorities on technical-military cooperation.

Protocol Signed

EA272112 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] The Portuguese military delegation in our country since 22 April for talks on technical-military cooperation between Mozambique and Portugal left Maputo for Lisbon this afternoon.

During the talks, the two countries signed a protocol on cooperation. Before departure, General Sousa Meneses, head of the Portuguese military delegation, told the media that he considers the results of the contacts held in Mozambique to be very positive.

The Portuguese military delegation this morning was received by President Samora Machel. The meeting was attended by Mozambican Security Minister Maj Gen Jacinto Veloso and Deputy National Defense Minister Lt Gen Sebastiao Marcos Mabote.

Lisbon Report

LD271510 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1230 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Mozambique President Samora Machel, speaking in Maputo today during an audience of over 60 minutes with a visiting top-level Portuguese military delegation, expressed his country's great interest in establishing military cooperation with Portugal.

Elaborating on his viewpoint, Samora Machel linked his country's interest to the need to normalize the present military situation in Mozambique. Armed groups of the resistance movement in recent months have disrupted the economy and security of the country's central region. Mozambique authorities claim the rebels are supported by South Africa to further its policy of creating hotbeds of tension in the region.

The audience with the Portuguese delegation preceded the formal signing of a protocol envisaging various initiatives in bilateral military cooperation. The audience, which the head of the Portuguese delegation, General Sousa Meneses, described as taking place in an atmosphere of great warmth, also was attended by Mozambican Security Minister Jacinto Veloso and several military leaders.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO, S. AFRICAN ARMY CLASHES LEAVE 40 DEAD

AB071334 Luanda ANGOP in French 1230 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Windhoek, 27 Apr (ANGOP) -- Forty people were killed in the last 2 weeks during clashes between the South African Army and SWAPO fighters in the area of Tsumeb, a mining and agricultural town in Namibia, illegally occupied by South Africa. Contrary to what has been propagated by the Pretoria authorities, the armed offensive launched by SWAPO shortly before the commemoration of the 22d anniversary of its founding has affected a considerable portion of the Namibian territory, particularly the Tsumeb district.

In this connection, the general administrator of Namibia, Daniel Hough, in a statement made to the press after visiting the area of the fighting, affirmed that the situation is critical but under control. However, the South African Army so far has been unable to check the nationalist offensive which already has reached the capital.

Moreover, the South African newspaper, the RAND DAILY MAIL, referring to SWAPO actions admitted in one of its recent isses that it is the biggest SWAPO offensive since the national liberation war began 16 years ago.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER SET TO MEET WITH KAUNDA 30 APRIL

AB280936 Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cape Town, 28 April (AFP) -- South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda will meet on Friday on the border between South Africa and Botswana, the South African Foreign Ministry announced here today.

A ministry spokesman said that the South African delegation would include Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Defence Minister General Magnus Nalan and several senior officials.

BOTSWANA PROTEST OVER BORDER INCIDENT CONFIRMED

LD280918 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] A South African foreign affairs spokesman has confirmed in Pretoria that Botswana has complained to the South African Government about an alleged border violation. Botswana alleged that its forces had clashed with members of the South African Security Forces who illegally crossed into northern Botswana from the Caprivi Strip in northeast South-West Africa/Namibia.

ZAMBIA

SWAPO PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH KAUNDA

CA271026 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] The South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, President Sam Nujoma has arrived for talks with President Kaunda. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof Lameck Goma, and senior SWAPO officials based in the country met Mr Nujoma, who is leading an eight-man delegation, at the Lusaka International Airport.

ZIMBABWE

RETURNEES SCREENED; INFILTRATORS ARRESTED

CA261014 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] The exercise to screen 5,000 Zimbabweans repatriated by the Pretoria regime this year is still going on. This was announced by the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Comrade Munangagwe, yesterday. Comrade Munangagwe said the men, some of whom had been working in South African mines, are being checked in case there are subversive elements among them.

The minister also announced that two South African soldiers who infiltrated into Zimbabwe have been arrested. The two men had been members of the South African Army in Namibia. Comrade Munangagwe said the security forces are more alert and able to track down any agents trying to infiltrate Zimbabwe.

FINANCE MINISTER OUTLINES ECONOMIC POLICY

CA271026 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] The minister of finance, economic planning and development, Comrade Chidzero, today outlined some of the achievements and shortfalls of the government. In an address officially opening the Zimbabwe international trade fair in Bulawayo, Comrade Chidzero said trade between Zimbabwe and the international community has increased since independence. He said Zimbabwe proposes to set up appropriate mechanisms by which trade with socialist countries can be pursued to the benefit of this country and its new trading partners. Comrade Chidzero noted that socialist countries conduct their trade through state organizations, a mechanism which Zimbabwe does not adequately have. He said this is why full advantage of trading opportunities with these countries has not been taken. It is therefore necessary, he said, to set up appropriate mechanisms by which such trading opportunities can be utilized.

The minister also said Zimbabwe is in the process of restructuring its economy, giving attention to the country's policy of growth with equity. Comrade Chidzero said the most pressing constraints continue to be transport, the balance of payments deficit and the shortage of skilled manpower. He assured the nation that by mid-year the country's railway system will be able to handle all traffic on offer. He said the national railways of Zimbabwe has ordered 60 new deisel locomotives using funds pledged at Zimcord [Zimbabwe Conference for Reconstruction and Development]. He disclosed that a further 22 locomotives are being reengined. He thanked all countries which pledged assistance at the Zimcord and said so far $480 million has been committed to identifiable projects.